

Senegal declares emergency

DAKAR (R) — Senegal declared a state of emergency Friday and imposed a curfew on the capital Dakar after revenge killings of at least 25 Mauritians. An official statement said a seven-hour curfew was to be enforced from 10 p.m. (2200 GMT). The Mauritians were killed in retaliation for the deaths of up to 400 people in two days of anti-Senegalese violence in Mauritania. Rioting spread through Dakar hours after refugees arrived from the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott with reports that up to 400 people there had been hacked or clubbed to death in two days of attacks against Senegalese (see page 2). A Reuters correspondent counted 25 bodies unloaded from a lorry at Dakar's main mortuary Friday evening. He had earlier seen the bodies of 13 Mauritians stoned to death in a densely-populated district near Dakar airport. The correspondent saw a crowd of Senegalese dragging Mauritanian bodies along a dirt road. He counted ten corpses. Three more lay outside a wrecked shop. Security forces fired tear-gas to stop crowds bent on revenge from marching on 15,000 Mauritians sheltering under army guard in a nearby trade fair ground.

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U.S. shuttle launch cancelled

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — The U.S. Space Agency scrubbed the launch of its shuttle Atlantis Friday, just 31 seconds from scheduled liftoff. On board when the postponement was announced were five astronauts and a space probe, Magellan, which the crew hoped to eject from the shuttle towards Venus — the cloud-shrouded planet that is an abiding mystery to scientists. Computers shut off the countdown, and it was not immediately clear where the problem was. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration had only a 23-minute launch window for the day. NASA spokesman Hugh Harris said there would not be time to explore the problem and attempt a launch later in the window. The scrub came at 2:30 p.m. (1830 GMT), six minutes after the window opened and 17 minutes after it would have closed. Harris said a recirculation pump problem had been indicated. Atlantis and Magellan were pronounced trouble-free until the 31-second mark, disappointing tens of thousands of spectators and many scientists who have long looked forward to the planetary mission that will follow Atlantis' flight.

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King's directives focus on economic readjustment, early elections, reforms, support for Palestinians

New government takes office

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government of Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, sworn in by His Majesty King Hussein Thursday afternoon, formally begins its first day in office Saturday with a mandate emphasising the Kingdom's moves towards economic readjustment and early return to parliamentary life.



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with the new cabinet of Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker

The new government, named three days after Zaid Rifai submitted his resignation to the King, is entrusted with implementing provisions and measures stipulated under an economic adaptation programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and working towards holding early elections to the Lower House of Parliament in line with the recently amended Election Law of 1986.

The King, one day after addressing the country on the riots that hit some part of the Kingdom following price hikes warranted by the economic adaptation programme, spelt out the task that lies ahead for the government in a 19-point letter of appointment to Sharif Zaid, who served as chief of the Royal Court

immediately prior to the new appointment.

Other major responsibilities entrusted to the carefully selected 24-member cabinet, widely seen as technocrat by economic analysts and experts, include weeding out "favouritism and corruption wherever they may be found... and tackling the issue of economic crimes... as well as implementing the recommendations made by the national conference on education held in 1988.

"We see the need to develop new national concepts and visions in all fields," concepts which would serve as a basis for clear government policies understood and comprehended by the citizen," the King said in his letter of appointment.

The programme given to the new government includes:

— Reactivating the private sector by stimulating its activities and widening its scope of operations.

— Reorganising the Kingdom's institutions and activities in a scientific way which would take into consideration the level of social development and the means available to the country.

— Enhancing the principles of national unity.

— Maintaining the security, law and order of the country — the basic requirements for stability and prosperity.

— Maintaining and deepening dialogue between the government and the citizens in the context of calm dialogue through direct or indirect communication means, and "respecting responsible freedom of expression and freedom of the press in accordance with the internationally-recognised national principles based on the concept of national belonging and the multitude of opinions within reasonable limits."

— Bettering the situation of the professional associations so that these institutions may perform the duties for which they were originally established — that is, serving, developing and maintaining the honour and integrity of professions and looking after the interests of professionals.

— Putting an end to attempts of politicising religion.

— Consolidating the principles of social justice by revising the income tax system on a fair basis.

— Eliminating favouritism and corruption, and putting an end to economic crimes.

— Giving due attention to tourism to ensure more revenues

and acquire more friends for the country.

— Promoting national health and expanding the operations of the National Medical Institution (NMI).

— Implementing the new national educational programme which should raise educational standards and boost vocational training.

— Introducing measures to develop the youth sector in the social, cultural and sports fields.

— Formulating programmes to safeguard the environment.

— Improving agriculture through the expansion of crop production, irrigation and marketing.

— Strengthening the policy of decentralisation and developing local administration by executing new policies and appointing qualified governors.

— Maintaining the strength of the Armed Forces.

— Implementing the objectives of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and working towards achieving pan-Arab integration.

Crowning the directives to the government, the King reaffirmed Jordan's firm commitment to the Palestinian cause and said the government would maintain its strong support for the policies and moves of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Jordan, he said, will continue to back the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom and independence.

In a letter accepting the appointment as head of government, Sharif Zaid, who served as commander-in-chief of the armed forces prior to being appointed as Royal Court chief, thanked the King for his confidence and pledged to carry out the directives.

Sharif Zaid said he would uphold the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and added that the King's programme of action, as given to him, would guide the new government's work.

The new prime minister pledged that his government would translate the royal directives into executive programmes and adopt decisions designed to reconstructing and stimulating the national economy, restructuring public administration, maintaining the process of educational reforms and preparing for parliamentary elections.

Sharif Zaid said his government would strive to achieve the goals and

aspirations of the ACC — which groups Jordan with Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen in a sub-regional economic alliance — and to contribute towards pan-Arab economic integration.

He pledged to continue Jordan's support for the PLO's endeavours and the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom and independence.

In an interview published in Kuwait's Al-Siyasah newspaper Thursday, the King said the new government would be provisional and elections would be held at an early date.

"Elections are near... very near... everything will come in its own time," he said.

King Hussein said last week's riots in some parts of the Kingdom came as a result of old accumulations — complications for which the Rifai government cannot be held responsible. The King added however, that a more detailed public explanation of the economic measures adopted by the government could have averted the riots.

"I have called for a look into the government measures and for a reassessment of those measures," the King said. "That may lessen the burden on Jordanian citizens, burdens with which we had no choice. Our calculations were not in conformity with what we expected," he said. "Incidentally, we were not the only ones to face that squeeze," he added.

The King confirmed that Jordan had reduced the strength of its Armed Forces and cut military expenditures in line with the letter of intent the Kingdom signed with the IMF. However, he said, the reduction was not in the extent of 25 per cent as suggested by some reports. Describing the cutbacks as "inevitable," the King said, "we had no choice."

In the new government, nine ministers who served in the 26-member Rifai cabinet were retained and 14 others were brought in, with the total number of portfolios set at 23.

The government incorporated two structural modifications; the Ministry of Health was combined with that of social development. Dr. Zuhair Malhas, who served in the Rifai cabinet, will head the ministry. The Ministry of Health now supervises primary health care while the NMI is entrusted to supervise secondary and tertiary health care in the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage was combined with the Ministry of Information forming the Ministry of Culture and Information headed by Nasouh Al Majali.

Former Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi was appointed as Royal Court chief.

King attends Friday prayers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein attended Friday prayers at Al Fatha Mosque and listened to a sermon delivered by Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat. The sermon focused on the role of the Islamic Nation in conquests, Jihad (Islamic war) and achieving Islamic might.

Khayyat urged people to work hard to earn their living and to meet their own needs, noting that Islam calls for moderation and avoiding extravagance.

He pointed out that moderation in Islam warrants that the state ban wasting of funds and curtail expenditure and not to allow people, affiliated to parties to take advantage of circumstances by encouraging people to carry out actions rejected by Islam, like rioting, divisions and spreading of occupation.

Khayyat paid tribute to King Hussein's firm stands saying that such stands are derived from those of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad. Khayyat stressed the unity of the Jordanian family, its coherence and its cooperation to counter the challenges and to save the holy places.

Attending Friday prayers were also His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Prince Faisal, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Royal Court Chief Thouqan Hindawi, King Hussein's special advisor Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, a number of cabinet ministers, Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mobammad Muhellan and senior government officials.

King: Israel involved in last week's events

KUWAIT (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has said Israel had a hand in last week's riots in some towns of the Kingdom.

"Israel has a hand in what happened," the King was quoted as saying in an interview published in Kuwait's Al-Siyasah newspaper Thursday. "Israel thought that playing up this question will lead to the exportation of the intifada from the occupied Arab territories to us or it thought that by snatching this opportunity it can divert the attention away from our blessed uprising."

The King commended the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) role in calming down the events, but blamed unspecified breakaway groups for exploiting the events.

The Israeli media, the King said, had been "drawing imaginary consequences" from the events in Jordan.

On the Palestinians, he said: "As a matter of fact, our Palestinian brethren had a positive role and were completely absent from

the disturbances.

"We thank the PLO for its role in calming down the situation, except for certain breakaway groups and some parties which thought they can benefit by ignoring the relationship between the Jordanian people and the Jordanian throne."

The interview was conducted by the paper's editor-publisher Ahmad Jarallah.

"The riots at the start were of a purely economic nature but turmoil could inevitably take a political course if exploited by anybody," the King said.

The King said the riots might have been prevented if the government had been more open.

"The government should have clarified that raising fuel prices would result in other price rises, including food products and services," he said.

"It seems the people, without this announcement, thought the government would not permit a rise in transport prices. This is impossible because the two prices are connected."

The King also said Egypt would be invited to a planned emergency Arab summit on the Palestinian issue.

"We have learned that Egypt will attend and will be invited to the summit," he told Al-Siyasah.

"We will not attend if Egypt is not invited. This is an official statement. We have taken an official decision on it."

He said the summit would take place either on May 20 or June 10 and would deal with all Arab issues.

The Monarch denied that former Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's resignation would mean "an end to the honeymoon between Syria and Jordan," because of the outgoing premier's friendship with the Syrian leadership.

"This is a matter of high politics. President (Hafez) Al Assad contacted me and I assured him about the situation and we hope we will maintain good coordination in the forthcoming Arab summit on the Lebanese question, the King said.

Arab-inspired truce takes hold in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A ceasefire called by the Arab League held Friday, ending 52 days of shelling duels between Lebanese army commander Michel Aoun's army units and Syrian soldiers and Lebanese militiamen.

But differences between the warring factions interpreting the truce's terms threatened to undermine the agreement reached Thursday at the end of an emergency meeting by Arab foreign ministers in Tunisia.

A police spokesman said two howitzer shells fired from mountains southeast of Beirut slammed into the Christian enclave northeast of the capital at 1:30 p.m. (1130 GMT), 90 minutes after the ceasefire went into effect.

"The shells exploded on the sand beach near the town of Byblos. No casualties were reported," said the spokesman.

"The ceasefire is generally holding. No further violations have been reported," he added.

Earlier, gunners duelled intermittently with howitzer and mortars across the "green line" which divides Beirut. Police said no casualties were reported. The toll of wounded after 52 weeks stands at 993 people.

Friday's ceasefire was the fourth attempt by the Arab League to contain the latest round of fighting in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war. It welcomed by the main parties to the conflict.

Aoun, who had declared a "war of liberation" against Syria's 40,000 troops in Lebanon, called the truce "the first step towards a broader pan-Arab role in Lebanon."

An Aoun spokesman said the general "hopes that the Arabs would be able to work out some sort of a programme for a Syrian pullout from Lebanon during the forthcoming Arab summit conference."

The summit is scheduled for May.

The Arab League called for lifting the air, sea and land blockades imposed during the most recent fighting.

The foreign ministers also decided to send a force of Arab military observers to monitor implementation of the ceasefire.

Aoun appears to be maintaining a blockade of ports run by militias south of Beirut, a step likely to jeopardise the truce.

The present confrontation broke out March 8, two days after Aoun ordered a blockade of militia-run ports that deny the state treasury about \$100 million of lost customs dues annually.

The Arab League set no date for deploying the observers, but people on the street welcomed them as a protection against random shelling.

"I think we will have some peace when the observers come," he added.

As the guns remained silent

Qasem returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem returned home Friday after taking part in the meetings in Tunis of the six-member Arab ministerial committee in charge of finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis and an extraordinary session of the Arab League Council.

Friday, witnesses said scores of people and cars lined up at both ends of the museum crossing.

But there were no signs of progress in reopening the other crossings.

Lebanese militias closed all crossing points leading to the Christian enclave in retaliation for Aoun's blockade of their ports.

Each sector of the capital depends on the other, with basic commodities like wheat and petrol normally being shipped daily.

The army command loyal to acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss said later in a statement it was fully committed to carry out the Arab League decision "especially by linking the ceasefire to ending the blockade and ensuring free maritime activity along all the Lebanese coast."

The new government

Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker — Prime minister and minister of defence.
Saleh Mas'adeh — Deputy prime minister and minister of interior.
Taher Al Masri — Deputy prime minister and minister of state for economic affairs.
Marwan Al Qasem — Deputy prime minister and foreign minister.
Ibrahim Ayyoub — Minister of supply.
Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs.
Zuhair Malhas — Minister of health and social development.
Hisham Al Khatib — Minister of energy and mineral resources.
Abdullah Nour — Minister of education.
Nawwaf Al Assad — Minister of higher education.
Youssef Hamdan — Minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment.
Shafiq Zawadeh — Minister of public works and housing.
Awad Khleifat — Minister of youth.
Yassir Hikmat — Minister of tourism and antiquities.
Ibrahim Izzeddin — Minister of state for cabinet affairs.
Adnan Badran — Minister of agriculture.
Mohammad Saleh Al Kilaani — Minister of water and irrigation.
Nasouh Al Majali — Minister of culture and information.
Ziyad Inab — Minister of industry and trade.
Hikmat Khammash — Minister of transport and telecommunications.
Bassel Jaradeh — Minister of finance.
Rafael Al Wazzani — Minister of justice.
Ziyad Faris — Minister of planning.
Jamal Edour — Minister of labour.
Thouqan Hindawi — Chief of the Royal Court

11 Palestinians wounded in clashes

Car explodes near Jerusalem police HQ

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A kerosene-laden car driven by a Palestinian holding a detonator burst into flames Friday near Israeli police headquarters in occupied Jerusalem, and at least 11 other Palestinians were shot and wounded by Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the crowded main square of the West Bank city of Nablus, assailants fatally shot a Palestinian suspected of cooperation with Israel. The man was struck in the mouth and forehead.

Ten Palestinians were shot and wounded in clashes with the army in the occupied lands. Another Palestinian, a 14-year-old boy, was shot in the head by Jewish settlers and was hospitalised in serious condition, reports said.

Also Friday, about 50 heavily armed Jewish settlers marched through Jerusalem's Arab neighbourhood of Silwan.

Some settlers waved Israeli flags and shouted in Hebrew and Arabic "the Jews are here, the Jews are here."

When about half a dozen Palestinian boys, ranging in age from eight to 10, stoned the marchers from a nearby hilltop, the settlers held their submachine guns as a warning.

The marches then alerted police who fired tear-gas canisters to disperse the stone throwers.

The Jerusalem explosion involved a blue sedan loaded with six tins of kerosene and two cooking gas canisters in the trunk, said police spokesman Uzi Sandori.

The driver was seen holding a detonator just before the vehicle caught fire and exploded, Sandori told reporters.

Sandori said police believe the car was being rigged as a bomb and may have gone off prematurely.

The car's driver, who was identified only as a Palestinian from Arab Jerusalem's Shoafat district, had a record for "disturbing the peace," Sandori said. The man was in serious condition in the intensive care unit at Hadassah hospital.

Israel radio said downtown Hebron was declared a closed military area after a series of clashes between soldiers and stone-throwing Palestinians Friday.

About 15,000 faithful prayed at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque Friday under the surveillance of a police helicopter, with hundreds of riot-equipped policemen stationed outside the area. There were no violent incidents.

Police turned away hundreds of young Palestinians from the mosque Friday to prevent renewed violent demonstrations. Some prayed in the streets near the police roadblocks.

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Heavy toll in battle for Jalalabad

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A new battle for Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad has opened, and there were reports of heavy casualties among both rebel and government forces.

The attacks coincided with this week's 11th anniversary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) seizing power in a bloody military coup. Pakistan-based rebels estimated they have killed 125 government troops since Tuesday and captured 44, including four officers, as rebels overran army positions in a key valley south of Jalalabad.

There were no estimates of guerrilla casualties but one rebel source said the "heavy fighting left several people dead on both sides."

The army has defended Jalalabad, 70 kilometres from the Pakistan border, against a constant rebel onslaught since March 6.

Soviet troops ended nine years of intervention in the civil war Feb. 15. The government forces the Soviets left behind still hold Afghanistan's key cities, but the rebels, backed primarily by Pakistan and the United States, reportedly control more than 90 per cent of the ravaged country-side.

Jalalabad, with a pre-war population of about 67,000, would give the rebels a strategic urban foothold to launch an attack on the capital, Kabul, 110 kilometres to the west. The rebels want to establish an Islamic republic in Afghanistan.

This week's attack focused on the Afghan army's 81st regiment in the Chaparhar Valley overlooking Jalalabad airport.

Deen Muhammad, national security minister of the Mujahadeen's self-proclaimed government-in-exile, said rebels captured three major army posts and 34 small ones to push within 4 kilometres south of the airport.

Guerrillas destroyed eight tanks and captured five. Deen said in a news release.

Meanwhile, the Mujahadeen were reported to be planning a second major offensive, this time

on the besieged southeastern city of Kandahar.

The rebels' Afghan news agency said their defence minister, Nabi Mohammadi, and the interior minister, Yunis Khalis, went to Kandahar province this week to discuss the attack with guerrilla commanders.

They disclosed no timetable but observers predict it will start by May 15, following the 'Eid that ends the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Mujahadeen fired nearly 60 rockets into Kabul Thursday, the highest number this year, to mark the anniversary of the April 27, 1978, Saur revolution. Kabul officials said at least 16 civilians were killed and over 40 were injured.

Protests in India

In New Delhi, India, hundreds of Afghan refugees staged a protest march and burned an effigy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Thursday, the anniversary of the Saur revolution.

The demonstrators waved banners and shouted slogans against the Soviet Union and President Najibullah's Moscow-backed government. Many wore arm-bands and scarves in green.

Long live Afghanistan, down with Russia, down with communism," they shouted while marching to laws near parliament.

Riot police with canes and tear gas canisters stood on guard, but there was no violence. Police estimated the number of protesters at 800.

A statement issued by two Afghan guerrilla groups, Hezb-e-Islami headed by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Jamiat-e-Islami led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, called on India to recognise the guerrillas' interim government.

India is the only major non-socialist country that maintains full diplomatic ties with Najibullah's government.



Mauritanians taking shelter in the courtyard of their embassy in Dakar, Senegal, after Senegalese youths looted Mauritanian shops.

Senegalese refugees say up to 400 killed in Mauritanian violence

DAKAR (R) — Refugees reaching Senegal Friday said up to 400 people were hacked or clubbed to death in two days of communal violence in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott.

No official toll has been given but hospital sources in Nouakchott have said at least 100 Senegalese died in the fighting Monday and Tuesday.

Senegal has threatened reprisals against Mauritania and accused it of failing to take steps to prevent the death of Senegalese.

The first batch of some 160 refugees who arrived in Dakar early Friday gave harrowing accounts of the killings, which some Dakar residents fear could

rekindle violence against Mauritanians in Senegal.

Isolated attacks were reported in the Senegalese capital, where the army restored order Tuesday after three days of looting of Mauritanian shops.

Four injured Mauritanians were brought into Dakar's Grand-Yoff Hospital while President Abdou Diouf was visiting the refugees there.

The riots in the two countries were sparked by a border shooting over disputed grazing rights April 9 but have been fuelled by underlying economic and racial tension.

About 30,000 Senegalese,

mainly seasonal workers, live in Mauritania, and some 300,000 Mauritanians, mostly traders, live in neighbouring Senegal.

Two-thirds of Mauritanians are fair-skinned moors of Arab and Berber descent while most Senegalese are black.

Senegalese women described conditions in Nouakchott's main mosque where some 7,000 Senegalese sought refuge as appalling.

"It was so packed it reminded me of the Great Mosque at Mecca during the pilgrimage," one woman said.

Senegal has said it wants to airlift all Senegalese who wish to return home and in a strongly

worded statement Thursday it accused Mauritania of failing to stop the killings swiftly.

"Senegal reserves the right to take appropriate measures if it is proved that Mauritanian security forces were to blame for the death and ill-treatment of our nationals," the statement said.

Police said fresh outbreaks of violence were reported in Senegal's ancient capital of Port Louis near the Mauritanian border with several people injured.

About 15,000 Mauritanians who fled to Dakar's central mosque to escape rioters and looters have been rehoused at a vast trade fair ground.

Chad coup plot leaders seek asylum in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has said that three leaders of an attempted coup in neighbouring Chad have given themselves up to Sudanese security forces and asked for political asylum.

The Sudan news agency SUNA said Thursday the Khartoum government was considering requests for asylum by former Chadian army commander and presidential security adviser Idriss Deby, First Secretary of the Chadian Embassy in Khartoum Abbas Kotas, and General Manager of Chad's Roads and Bridges Corporation Wadwasa Deby.

Chadian President Hissene Habre had accused Sudan and Libya of being involved in the rebellion.

There was no mention in the SUNA report of Chadian army commander Hassan Djamous, reported to have fled from N'Djamena towards the Sudanese border with Idriss Deby after the coup plot was uncovered.

Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahamat Ito, now under arrest, Djamous, Idriss Deby, and an unspecified number of others who had "deserted the ranks of loyal Chadian forces and entered into open rebellion against the institutions of the republic."

An official communiqué issued April 14 said loyal Chadian forces had "put an end to this senseless adventure and annihilated the band of traitors."

In Khartoum, a Chadian government delegation failed to deliver a message from Habre to Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi despite a weeklong stay in the Sudanese capital and returned to Chad Wednesday, Al Khartoum newspaper reported Thursday.

The delegation was instead received by a Foreign Ministry director, the paper said, quoting State Minister For Local Government Mohammed Abdulla Doma as saying the Chadians told him they would only deliver the message to Mahdi.

Bishops support uprising

LARNACA (AP) — Christian bishops in the Holy Land support the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation, Samir Kafaty, the Anglican bishop of Jerusalem and the Middle East, said Friday.

"As bishops in the Holy Land we are engaged in services to the people, especially the casualties of the iron-fist policy of Israel. We live the suffering of our people," he said.

Kafaty spoke in an interview on the sidelines of a conference of the 27 primates of the Anglican Church from all over the world which he is hosting in this resort city on the southern coast of Cyprus.

"The fact that the primates responded to my invitation to meet in the Middle East is adequate response and an indication of their concern for the situation," he said.

He added that last summer's larger conference at Lambeth in England which gathered 500 Anglican bishops representing the 78 million members of the communion worldwide, "affirmed the right of the Palestinian people to statehood and efforts for a settlement of the Middle East crisis through an international conference where the Palestinians will attend as equals."

"The Lambeth conference affirmed the human rights of the Palestinians and this conference here will certainly reaffirm this and call for the normal practice of guaranteeing the human rights of the Palestinians," Kafaty said.

He said his church "is part and parcel of the Palestinian people, their problems, hopes and aspirations." It supports the uprising,

which has aged in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since December 1987 "as a spontaneous movement that rejects the occupation peacefully."

"It is a spontaneous reaction to the refusal of the people's demand for selfhood, for statehood. It is a spiritual movement in which Christians and Muslims are united in reacting in a situation of occupation," he said.

Kafaty, a Palestinian, said that "as a church leader, I am part and parcel of the people born in Palestine. I cannot divorce my

feelings from the feelings of the people."

He denied claims that the Palestinian uprising was being guided by Muslim "fanaticism."

"There seems to be no problem of either party trying to dominate the other," he said of Christians and Muslims in the occupied territories.

"It is not a religious movement, it is a national movement by the people saying 'no to occupation, and yes to coexistence with Israel'."

Israelis don't like 'Palestinian time'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Beit Jallah complained this week that their watches had been smashed by Israeli policemen and soldiers because they were set according to "Palestinian time."

The latest leaflet of the uprising leadership called on Palestinians to move their watches forward one hour on April 15 to mark summer time in the "State of Palestine."

Palestinians in various parts of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and also in the Gaza Strip are following the new summer time. Municipalities, East Jerusalem schools, shops, mosques and churches are reported to be following the new time schedules.

According to Palestinian reports there have been more than a dozen incidents in which troops broke watches of Palestinians with clubs. Soldiers or policemen would ask passersby for the time and when given the "Palestinian time" would either smash the Palestinians' watches, or beat them, according to the reports.

An East Jerusalem resident of Silwan reported that two days ago, border policemen asked him for the time and when he answered "four o'clock," he was ordered to stand in the street for an hour until four o'clock Israel time.

Palestinian residents from the West Bank and East Jerusalem said that the new "Palestinian summer time" is yet another phenomenon of the intifada, stressing the difference between Israel and the territories and "Palestinian independence." — The Jerusalem Post.

Israelis want tougher action but PLO talks

TEL AVIV (AP) — A majority of Israelis want a crackdown on the Palestinian uprising but also say Israel should negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) under certain conditions, according to two polls published Friday.

Pollster Rachel Israeli of the private Modin Ezrahi Survey Institute explained the seemingly contradictory responses by saying the public viewed the two questions in different timeframes.

"In the short term, people are ready to use force, but in the long term, they are more ready to try dovish solutions," she said.

In one poll published in the Haaretz daily, 1,200 Israeli Jews were asked whether they favoured the use of greater military force to crush the uprising.

Of the respondents, 54.6 per cent said yes, 36.6 per cent said no, and the rest had no opinion. The poll was conducted in the second week of April by the private firm Public Opinion Research of Israel and had a margin of error of 2.9 per cent.

A second survey published in the Yediot Ahronot newspaper asked 656 Israeli Jews whether they favoured or opposed Israeli negotiations with the PLO.

Thirty-nine per cent opposed talks, 17 per cent favoured them, and 41 per cent said they would agree to negotiations if the PLO recognised Israel and abandoned "terror."

However, pollster Mina Zernach of the Dahaf Institute, which conducted the survey, said most respondents in the last category believed those conditions had not been met.

The survey was conducted April 12 and 13 and has a margin of error of 3.5 per cent.

A similar survey in February showed 41 per cent rejecting talks with the PLO under any circumstances, 15 per cent favouring talks and 39 per cent giving conditional support.

The Dahaf survey also asked

respondents what they thought was the best solution for the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Twenty-two per cent favoured annexation by Israel, 27 per cent backed Palestinian "autonomy," 33 per cent opted for "territorial compromise," nine per cent preferred the status quo, and five per cent suggested a Palestinian state.

In a similar Dahaf survey last year, respondents were asked to choose between "annexation," "autonomy" and "territorial compromise." At the time, 22 per cent favoured annexation, 35 per cent favoured autonomy and 39 per cent territorial compromise.

The figures in this poll and some others cited above do not add to 100 per cent because some respondents said they had no opinion.

Zernach said that since the start of the uprising, Israeli attitudes have become more dovish while voting patterns have become more hawkish.

"The public thinks the (the right-wing) Likud will get a better deal for Israel. People believe the Likud will eventually go for some type of territorial compromise," she said.

In a related survey published Friday by the Hadashot newspaper, 1,251 Israeli Jews were asked which party they would vote for if elections were held today. The results were translated into seats in the 120-member Knesset, or parliament.

Likud held steady at 40 seats, while the Labour Party, which favours some form of territorial compromise, dropped from 39 seats in November election to 29 seats in the survey.

At the same time, left-wing parties that call for talks with the PLO gained a total of seven seats in the survey.

The survey, conducted by the Modin Ezrahi Institute in the second week of April, has a margin of error of two per cent.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran said holding 1 of 18 Britons

LONDON (R) — Iran is believed to have detained one of 18 Britons it has ordered to leave the country, Britain said Thursday. A Foreign Office spokesman said John Bowden, a British businessman married to an Iranian, was thought to be held in "connection with" fraud allegations. Bowden was among the Britons told to leave Iran by Tuesday in apparent retaliation for the expulsion from Britain of 18 Iranians after diplomatic relations between Tehran and London were broken over the Salman Rushdie affair. The spokesman said the British government had asked Sweden's embassy in Tehran to make inquiries about Bowden. The Swedish embassy has handled British interests in Tehran since Britain withdrew its diplomats in February.

Sudan: Israeli arms reach SPLA

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has said it had evidence that neighbouring Kenya was channelling Israeli arms to rebels fighting Sudanese troops in the south. State radio Omdurman quoted Information Minister Hussein Abu Saleh as saying the evidence would be made public at the appropriate time. Saleh, also official government spokesman, gave no clue of the nature of the evidence. Sudan made a similar accusation during a meeting last week between Defence Minister Mubarak Osman Rahma and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in Khartoum. Kenya has in the past dismissed as unfounded charges by Khartoum that it was helping the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Sudan and Kenya have a long-running border dispute and were involved in tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats last month over the issue. Sudanese press reports said Kenya, apparently in protest at Khartoum's allegations, has refused to receive a Sudanese delegation led by Foreign Minister Sidahmed Al Hussein. The Khartoum newspaper Al Adwa Tuesday published what it said was a text of a letter from the Kenyan presidency to the Kenyan Foreign Ministry asking it to facilitate the transfer of Israeli arms shipments into south Sudan for the use of the SPLA.

Jerusalem forest damaged, arson suspected

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Fire damaged Jerusalem's Kennedy memorial forest during the night and the Israeli occupation authorities said they suspected arson. It took fire fighters 12 hours to control fires which started about 8 p.m. Wednesday. Moshe Rivlin, chairman of the "Jewish National Fund," said it destroyed eight acres and about 3,000 trees. The forest, several hundred acres of pine, is named for U.S. President John Kennedy who was assassinated in 1963. Three Palestinians from the nearby West Bank village of Battir were detained last week on suspicion of attempted arson in the forest. Last spring fires that swept through more than 25,000 acres of land in five weeks.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 73111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
14:30	Koran
14:55	Children programmes
16:15	Cooking programme
16:30	Arabic series
17:20	Health programme
18:00	Religious period
18:35	Arabic series
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Religious series
22:35	Riddle
23:00	News in Arabic
23:15	Arabic series
00:15	Arabic film
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Coulibes
18:30	Des Chiffres et de Lettres
19:00	News in French
19:15	Le d'Heure du Proche
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Natural Phenomena
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Just the Ten of us
21:00	Alfred Hitchcock presents
21:30	Saturday Variety Show
22:00	News in English
22:20	Lonesome Dove
PRAYER TIMES	
03:23	Fajr

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Khamasni evidences will prevail today. Therefore, it will be hot, dry and dusty sometimes with the appearance of some high and medium clouds. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly moderate winds and calm sea.	
AMMAN	Min./max. temp.
Amman 31, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 19 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Jabir	778959
Dr. Ahmad Al-Daghi	676453
Dr. Arif Al-Ashhab	602507
Dr. Adel Dabboub	893644
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	657655
Nairovkh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	649455
Shmeisani pharmacy	637640
IRBID:	
Dr. Jamal Bani Hani	(—)
Al Shurua pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Samir Lawzi	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue	199
Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	623090/93
Blind Bank	778121
Highway Police	983402
Traffic Police	656300/91
Public Security Department	656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	(—)
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	(—)
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	(—)
Directory assistance	12
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hassan Medical Centre	613813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	64281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	64244/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mallias, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	66417/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Mushar Hospital	66722/7
The Islamic, Abdali	66612/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/8
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafieh	77511/26
Army, Marja	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/30
Amal Hospital	674150
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)98323
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53301-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:25	Baghdad (RJ)
06:40	New Delhi (RJ)
06:50	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
07:15	Damascus (RJ)
07:30	Cairo (RJ)
07:50	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
08:55	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:30	Miami, Vienna (RJ)
10:40	New York, Montreal (RJ)
11:20	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:55	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:40	Tripoli (RJ)
20:30	Frankfurt (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:55	Baghdad (MS)
12:45	Benghazi (LN)
16:25	Riyadh (SU)
18:05	Rome (AZ)
21:45	Paris, Damascus (AF)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:55	Aqaba (RJ)
10:40	Frankfurt (RJ)
11:40	Tripoli (RJ)
11:50	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:55	Athens (RJ)
11:50	Aqaba, Helsinki (RJ)
11:40	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:45	Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:00	London (RJ)
12:15	Paris (RJ)
19:40	Karachi, Dhahran (RJ)
20:15	Jeddah (RJ)
20:20	Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:15	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:55	Baghdad (MS)
12:45	Benghazi (LN)
16:25	Riyadh (SU)
18:05	Rome (AZ)
21:45	Paris, Damascus (AF)

MARKET PRICES	
Uppercase price in Jds per kg	
Almond	600 / 300
Apple	500 / 400
Banana	350 / 300
Banana (Makassar)	300 / 250
Broad beans	270 / 220
Cabbage	70 / 50
Carrots	160 / 120
Cauliflower	140 / 100
Cucumbers	160 / 120
Dates	470 / 400
Eggplant	230 / 180
Garlic	230 / 180
Gracfruit	280 / 200
Lemon	400 / 350
Lettuce (per one)	80 / 50
Marrow (large)	80 / 60
Marrow (small)	150 / 100
Orange	380 / 320
Onion (dry)	90 / 60
Onion (green)	100 / 70
Peas	200 / 160
Pepper (hot)	180 / 140
Pepper (sweet)	200 / 160
Potato	270 / 220
Spinach	150 / 100
Strawberry	1500 / 1000
Tomatoes	340 / 180

Jerusalem churches denounce Israeli measures against uprising

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Heads of Jerusalem's Christian churches denounced Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising in occupied Arab areas in a statement sent to the United Nations and foreign consuls here, church sources have said.

"In Jerusalem, on the West Bank and in Gaza, our people experience in their daily lives constant deprivation of their fundamental rights because of arbitrary actions deliberately taken by the authorities," said the statement issued Wednesday.

Church sources said the statement was signed by the heads of the Greek Orthodox, Roman

Catholic, Syrian Orthodox, Armenian, Greek Catholic and Anglican churches.

About 50,000 of the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied areas are Christian, mostly belonging to the Greek Orthodox church. The majority of the population is Muslim.

The church leaders said that during clashes which began in December 1987, "unarmed and innocent people are being killed by the unwarranted use of firearms and hundreds are wounded by the excessive use of force."

About half a dozen of the 453

Palestinians killed in the uprising were Christians. Seventeen Israelis have also died.

The church leaders included Palestinian Michel Sabbah, the first Arab to hold the post of Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem. They said Israel should reopen schools, cease holding suspects without trial and demolishing homes of suspected nationalist offenders.

The statement also protested against frequent shooting incidents around holy places.

Most Palestinian Christians live around East Jerusalem and Ramallah and Bethlehem in the West Bank.

Gandhi receives Prince Hassan's message

Jordanian, Indian chambers sign memo of understanding

NEW DELHI (I.T.) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has received a message from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan dealing with the Indian Jordanian economic cooperation.

The message was delivered here by Khaldoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry who is now visiting the Indian capital at the head of a chamber delegation for talks to pave the ground for the joint Jordanian Indian investment seminar that would be held in Amman in June under Prince Hassan's chairmanship.

Upon receiving the letter Gandhi expressed his support for the coming seminar and said that it would no doubt help promote bilateral relations and open the scope for further cooperation in economic and trade fields. India will provide all possible facilities to its own businessmen and industrialists to launch closer cooperation with Jordan, Gandhi said at the meeting with Abu Hassan.

Abu Hassan, for his part, explained the seminar's objectives and outlined the opportunities for the two sides to bolster their economic relations and launch joint ventures that would benefit the Indian and Jordanian people.

Abu Hassan also briefed Gandhi on his talks with the Indian chambers of commerce and industry and a common agreement on pursuing further consultation and meetings.

The meeting with Gandhi followed the signing here of a memorandum of understanding between the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

The Amman Chamber of Industry and FICCI agreed to exchange commercial and industrial information with a view to promoting mutually beneficial bilateral trade, joint ventures, transfer of technology, through round table conferences and seminars from time to time.

Both parties agreed to help their members as well as those interested in promoting economic relations to get in touch with their counterparts.

Both agreed to exchange visits of business delegations from each country and help participation in exhibitions in Jordan and India by their members.

Both agreed to provide facilities for training chamber executives and other bodies in their respective organisations with mutual consent.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS: Irbid municipality has decided to install traffic lights at a number of new junctions and streets in the city. Mayor Abdul Razzak Tubeishat said the municipality will carry out improvements and repairs on the existing traffic lights (Petra).

Profiles of prime minister, ministers

AMMAN (I.T.) — Following are profiles of first time ministers in the new cabinet formed Thursday by Field Marshal Sherif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Sherif Zaid Ibn Shaker was born in 1934 in Amman where he went to school. He obtained his secondary degree from Victoria College in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1951. In 1955 he joined Sandhurst Military Academy in Britain. Sherif Shaker joined the Jordanian armed forces in 1953.

Sherif Zaid worked as a military aide to His Majesty King Hussein between 1955 and 1957 and between 1957 to 1958 he worked as an assistant military attaché in Britain.

He occupied a number of military positions until he became commander in chief of the Armed Forces in 1976. In 1987 he was promoted to the rank of field marshal and in 1988 he was appointed as head of the Royal Court.

Sherif Zaid holds a number of Jordanian, Arab and international medals, among them is the Kawkeh Medal of the First Order, the Renaissance Decorated Medal and the Renaissance Medal of the First Order.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masa'deh was born in Irbid in 1930. He holds a degree in law and a specialised degree in general law obtained in 1954.

Masa'deh held a number of government positions the first of which was that of a teacher with the Ministry of Education between 1949 and 1950. Between 1955 and 1958 he worked as an auditor. Between 1958 and 1970 he was a judge at the Ministry of Justice and in 1970 he became governor of Amman. In 1972 he became secretary general of the Ministry of Interior and between

1972 and 1974 he was minister of justice. In 1973 he became finance minister and a member of the Senate. In 1978 he was appointed as a governor in the Ministry of Interior and from 1980 to 1984 he acted as minister of finance.

Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Taher Al Masri: Taher Nash'at Al Masri was born in Nablus in 1942 where he obtained his high school degree from Al Najah College in 1959. In 1963, he obtained a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Texas in the US.

Among the important positions Masri held are assistant director of the Central Bank between 1965 and 1973, minister of state for occupied territories affairs in 1973, head of the executive office of occupied territories affairs, foreign minister in 1984, and again in 1985. Masri was also a member of the Lower House of Parliament.

Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayoub was born in the town of Al Husam in 1926. He completed his high school education in Amman in 1943 after which he obtained a specialised diploma in telecommunications in 1954.

Among the posts Ayoub held were the following: Staff and command duties at the Jordanian Armed Forces between 1943 and 1961, military attaché in Baghdad until 1965, head of the Signals Corps until 1973, Royal Court advisor until 1974, deputy army's chief of staff for administration between 1974 and 1976, minister of municipal and rural affairs between 1976 and 1980, minister of supply between 1980 and 1984 and the same post between 1984 and April 1985.

Minister of Education Dr. Abdullah Al Nsour was born in the city of Salt in 1939 and

obtained a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the American University of Beirut. He also received a master's degree from the Wain, Detroit University in Michigan in 1965. He received his doctorate in human planning from Paris' Sorbonne University.

Positions held by Nsour include administrative director of the Royal Scientific Society in 1971, assistant to the Jordanian representative at UNESCO in 1975, assistant to the head of the Arab group at UNESCO in 1977, director general of the General Budget Department in 1978, secretary general of the Ministry of Finance in 1980, head of the Income Tax Department in 1981 and minister of planning.

Minister of State for Prime Ministerial Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddine was born in Beirut in 1934 where he joined the American University of Beirut to obtain a degree in political science in 1955. Since his graduation he worked in information, diplomatic and administrative fields.

Among the posts he held were information secretary for His Majesty King Hussein in 1968, Ministry of Information undersecretary in 1971, Jordan's ambassador to Switzerland, West Germany, Britain and the US between 1975 and 1985. Since 1986 he held the post of head of the Civil Service Commission.

Minister of Agriculture Adnan Badran was born in Jerash in 1935. He obtained a bachelor's degree in science from the U.S. in 1959 and a master's degree from Michigan University in 1961 in the same field. In 1963, he obtained a doctorate in science.

Badran conducted a large amount of scientific research in the fields of biology, physiology, bio-chemistry. He held the post of dean of the science department at the University of Jordan in 1971 and became president of Yarmouk University in 1986.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Al Keilani was born in the Haffa district in Palestine in 1936. He received his bachelor's degree in engineering from Cairo University in 1961 and started working as an engineer at the Jordan Electricity Company in 1962.

Keilani was director general of the Water and Sewage Authority between 1982 and 1984, director general of the Water Authority of Jordan between 1984 and 1987 when he resigned his post.

Minister of Culture and Information Nasoob Al Majali was born in Kerak in 1942. He attended Baghdad University, and the Lebanese University in Beirut. He obtained a degree in English literature in 1964 and then worked for the Armed Forces until 1973.

Majali worked in the information field for 16 years. He was head of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, between 1973 and 1976, director general of Jordan Radio

King congratulates Saddam

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable of good wishes to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on his birthday. In the cable, the King said that the Jordanian government and people join him in expressing best wishes for the Iraqi people and leadership and wishing them further progress and prosperity.

In Amman, the Iraqi community held a celebration to mark the occasion. The celebration included Iraqi folk performances of dances and songs and poetry recitals, and was attended by Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jassem Hussein and embassy staff.



Members of the relief mission are being seen off at Amman airport (Petra photo)

New relief mission leaves for the Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Thursday dispatched another relief mission to Sudan to offer help to the victims of drought and flood in the Arab African country.

According to Abdul Salam Al Ahadi, the rapporteur of the Jordanian committee for supporting the Sudanese people, those leaving for Sudan on Thursday comprised a medical mission of 16 doctors and technicians carrying medical supplies and a Jordanian group of 16 engineers and technicians to carry out development projects.

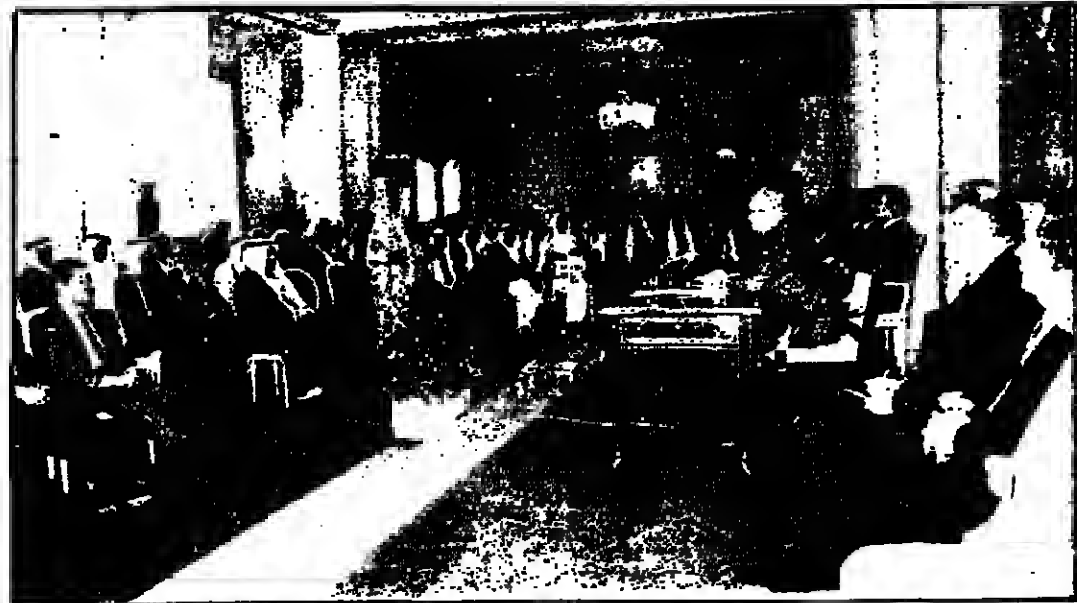
Abhadi, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in bidding farewell to the mission, said that the medical group, the 21st of its kind and the

group of engineers, the second of its type will be replacing other groups sent earlier to the drought and famine hit Sudanese region. The medical appliances and relief supplies are presented as a donation from the Jordanian people, while the equipment for the development projects have been financed by the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank, Abhadi noted.

He said that the medical team will provide services to the local population, while the engineers and the technicians will develop water and electricity projects.

The 16 engineers and technicians were selected from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the Royal Engineers Corps, the Water Authority of Jordan, the Jordan Electricity Authority and the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, according to Abhadi.

The development schemes, he said, are being carried out at the Kass city and will benefit 12,000 people. The water projects entail drilling 10 artesian wells and laying water networks while the electricity project entails supplying power to the city of Kass and lighting streets. Abhadi said that the electricity projects are due to be completed in four months time.



His Majesty King Hussein Thursday receives Ma'an notables and leaders at the Royal Court

Ma'an leaders regret recent events, renew allegiance to throne

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing notables and heads of tribal groups in the Ma'an region in southern Jordan Thursday apologised to His Majesty King Hussein for the regrettable incidents in their region and condemned as irresponsible actions the behaviour of certain elements behind the riots in Ma'an city lately.

hard and for which the government had obtained loans to raise the people's living standards.

King Hussein said that Jordan's geographical position makes it imperative on its people to remain vigilant and strong in the face of the challenges and dangers. The King underlined the importance of open dialogue and exchange of views which, he said, should form the basis of cooperation between government and people. He said that the events and their root causes will be reviewed, and all issues which guarantee security will be handled so that security and stability can be enhanced.

The delegation members were received by His Majesty King Hussein at the Royal Court in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior Royal Court officials.

Speakers renewed their allegiance to the Hashemite throne and pledged support for his wise policies.

King Hussein described the Ma'an incidents as very painful and harmed the country's image. He said that the Kingdom's leadership continues to strive to provide decent living standards for all the Jordanian people. The recent incidents, he said, were directed against state property for which Jordanians had sought

AACO discusses joint company

AMMAN (Petra) — The consultative committee of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) held a meeting in Amman Thursday to discuss the establishment of a company to finance the purchase and lease of aircraft, among several other important topics. The meeting which was chaired by the AACO Chairman Ali Dajani, discussed the organisation's activities during

its silver jubilee later this year, develop technical developments in air transport operations, cooperation among Arab airlines and issuing a common handbook for Arab airports services.

Those attending the meeting included representatives of the organisation's commercial, air freight, financial, planning, public relations, air operations and land services committees.

ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES: A several-day meeting has started at the Amman-based Arab Organisation of Administration Sciences. The meeting, by a committee of experts to discuss a study on centres set up by Arab League organisations in different Arab countries, is attended by delegates from Jordan, Syria and Algeria.

The News is out. Departures at the best time of the day.



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Thu LH650	14:00 19:25*

*Until change of summertime dep./arr. Amman on hour earlier.
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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition of book and handicrafts at Princess Alia College.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolls and Munira Toubayseh at the Housing Gallery.

RAMADAN SOUQ

- * Ramadan open-air market, which includes foodstuff, clothes, home appliances and children's toys at Mahatta, eastern Amman.
- * International Ramadan Souq, in which 14 Arab and Islamic countries are taking part, at the International Auto Centre, Queen Alia International Airport Highway.

FILMS

- * A German film entitled "Der arme Mann Luther" (English subtitled at the Goethe Institute — 8:30 p.m.)

THEATRE

- * An Arabic play entitled "The Country's Love... Continues" shown as part of the cultural festival of the Jordanian community colleges, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Chapeau bas

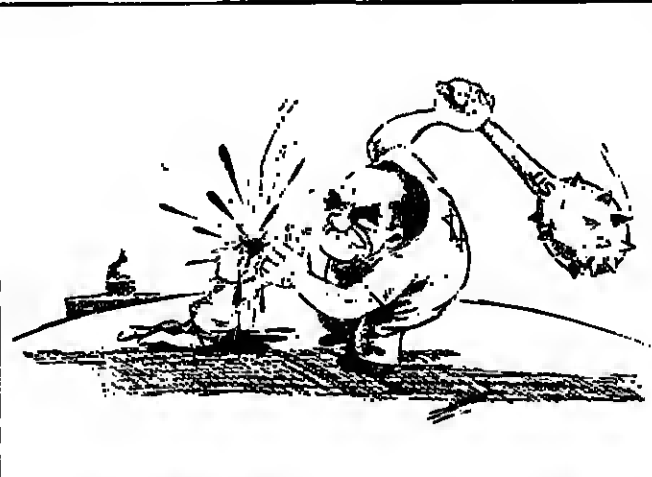
THE guidelines that His Majesty King Hussein has set for the government of Prime Minister Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker explicitly define the course of action that Jordan will pursue in the coming months until parliamentary elections are held. However, the guidelines are not expected to be only transitional as they specifically aim at changes that will continue as they reshape the behaviour of the citizens in the endeavours to live within our means.

The government was entrusted to restructure its administration on the basis of honesty and integrity, to review the income tax system, to stem corruption and favouritism, to put an end to politicising religion and to ensure strict order and discipline within the framework of national unity. Moreover, His Majesty urged the government to deepen its public image through openness in the media, and increased awareness of education procedures and other fields relating to youth, health, agriculture and tourism.

The task for the new government is undoubtedly not an easy one and no one expects miracles to emerge overnight; but everybody realises that a new era has begun where tamperers with national interests will be dealt with an iron fist.

The team which will help the prime minister carry out his duties is by all standards efficient, knowledgeable and experienced. Citizens are expected to join in the efforts to complement and reciprocate the decisions that the government has to adopt to lessen our foreign debt burden and brighten Jordan's image in all aspects.

We wish Prime Minister Sharif Zaid and his colleagues all the best in shouldering our national interests under the directives of His Majesty the King who has given Jordanians every reason for pride and self-esteem.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai' and the other Jordanian dailies on Friday discussed the formation of the new government in Jordan and reviewed the different points in King Hussein's letter of designation to Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The letter said Al Rai' has outlined Jordan's policies and provided guidelines for the government's future steps in all directions. What is gratifying said the paper is the King's call on the new cabinet to build bridges of close cooperation with the Jordanian people, support freedom of the press and end corruption. The principles contained in the letter should now pave the ground for the government of Sharif Zaid to introduce reform and to help the country to adjust to the new developments and the new situation in addition to preparing it to the parliamentary elections, the paper noted. The paper congratulated the government on its appointment and expressed hope that the coming stage will be marked with serious work and successful achievements.

Al Dustour daily said that King Hussein wants the new government to serve in the transitional period before the election and to introduce steps that would lead to an improvement in public administration operations and in the national economy. The paper said that the new government will have to address the issues that resulted from the past week's events and to deal with the new economic realities and adjust the country to the new situation. King Hussein's letter to the prime minister, the paper said, contained the main principles and the guidelines that should be followed and served as an executive programme that would bring in reform. According to the King's letter of designation the government will undertake changes in the public administration, eliminate corruption and prepare the country for the coming elections, said the paper. It added the letter reflects the King's keenness on the freedom of the press and the deepening of relations between government and people. Indeed the letter contained the main principles which Jordan has been striving to uphold over the years.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the King's letter of designation to the new government summed up all the principles to be followed and the steps to be taken to reactivate the country's economy and revitalise the public administration system. The Jordanian people are optimistic with the advent of the new government which would implement the King's guidelines and achieve further benefits for the Jordanian citizens, the paper noted. It said that both government and people are responsible for the Kingdom's future and both are required to work closely to fulfil the national objectives. The King's letter of designation to the new government, the paper added, serves as a general but important framework for the future steps and for the government's coming moves which should bring justice and fulfil the people's aspirations.

Several successors to Takeshita

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's announcement Tuesday that he will resign after passage of the fiscal 1989 budget left no clear successor, although there are several possibilities.

Takeshita had two powerful rivals — Shintaro Abe, now secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, and Kiichi Miyazawa, a former finance minister — when he won the party leadership and thus the prime minister's job in 1987.

But both Abe and Miyazawa are considered unlikely to win the party's nod as successors because of their own links to the stock-profitting scandal that brought Takeshita down.

Here are brief profiles of possible successors, including some who might become only interim prime ministers:

— Masayoshi Ito, 75, chairman of the ruling party's executive council, is considered most likely to succeed Takeshita because of his long experience in senior party posts and his image as a "clean politician." The graduate of the elite Tokyo University was elected to the powerful house of representatives for

eight consecutive terms from Fukushima prefecture, northern Japan, starting in 1948, after serving in the ministry of agriculture. He was chief cabinet secretary — the

prime minister's top lieutenant — in the administration of Masayoshi Ohira and was acting prime minister in 1980 following Ohira's sudden death. He served as foreign minister under prime minister Zenko Suzuki in 1980-82. However, Ito is diabetic and has said a younger person should succeed Takeshita.

— Masaharu Gotoda, 74, currently chairs an LDP political reform committee that Takeshita hastily formed in the wake of the stock scandal in an attempt to restore public trust. Gotoda joined the former ministry of interior (now the national police agency) in 1939, and became director general of the police agency in 1969. He was elected to the house of representatives from Tokushima prefecture, southwestern Japan, in 1976 and has served five consecutive terms. He has been head of the management and coordination agency, and was former prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's chief cabinet secret-

ary in 1982-84. Known for his straightforward comments, uncommon among Japanese politicians, Gotoda is considered rather conservative. He too is a graduate of Tokyo University.

— Takeo Fukuda, 84, prime minister in 1976-78, is an influential party elder. A former bureaucrat from Gunma prefecture, north of Tokyo, and a graduate of Tokyo University, he worked for the finance ministry for 18 years before winning election to the house of representatives in 1952. He served 14 consecutive terms in parliament and was minister of agriculture, finance and foreign affairs before becoming prime minister. He yielded leadership of his party faction to Abe in 1986 and recently announced that he would not seek another term as a lawmaker. But since February, dozens of members of the Abe faction who remained loyal to Fukuda have demanded that Takeshita resign to take responsibility for the scandal. This has fuelled speculation that Fukuda was interested in returning to the office.

— Michita Sakata, 72, the

longest-serving national lawmaker in Japan, has been elected to the house of representatives from southwestern Kumamoto prefecture for 17 consecutive terms since the first post-World War II election in 1946. He headed the health and welfare, education and justice ministries and defence agency before becoming speaker of the house in 1985. Sakata is known for smoothing over rifts within the party over numerous issues. He is also a graduate of Tokyo University, and belongs to no faction.

— Shin Kanemaru, 74, a former ruling party secretary general and 11-term lawmaker from Yamaguchi prefecture northwest of Tokyo, has consistently served as a "consensus-finder" between the LDP and opposition parties. He was a businessman before being elected to parliament in 1958. He has served as construction minister and chief of the national land and defence agencies. He became deputy prime minister under Nakasone in 1986-87, and supported Takeshita in 1987 in the party leadership race against Abe and Miyazawa.

Uncertainties grow with resignation

By David Thurber
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The absence of strong, clean candidates in Japan's ruling party was one reason Noboru Takeshita held on as prime minister so long after a scandal surfaced and his popularity plunged, analysts say.

Now, following Takeshita's announcement that he will resign, Japan faces new political uncertainties after months of parliamentary stalemate caused by the Recruit bribery scandal.

Takeshita declined to speculate on whom the ruling Liberal Democratic Party would choose to succeed him as party leader and thus as prime minister.

"Many of the leaders of factions inside the LDP are themselves involved in the Recruit scandal, so it would be difficult to find someone to take Takeshita's place," said Seisaburo Sato, professor of politics at Tokyo University.

Questions also remain over passage of the budget for the current fiscal year, which began April 1. The government is oper-

ating under a 50-day provisional budget because of a continuing parliamentary boycott by opposition parties, which are demanding that former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone testify about his links to the scandal.

Opposition parties agreed to participate in debate on the budget, but continued to insist that Nakasone testify under oath.

A further question was whether any changes in basic political methods might result, and even whether LDP dominance might end.

Unlike questions of personal finances in the 1970s that led to the resignation of Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, the Recruit scandal has rocked virtually all factions in the giant LDP, contributing to an increase in public disillusionment and a consensus on the need for reform in the political system, often characterised by back-room dealings.

"I feel deeply responsible for having fostered such distrust," Takeshita said in his resignation announcement.

For many people, the scandal confirmed the extent of unre-

ported money flowing between business and government and raised questions of whether the LDP's 34-year domination of Japanese politics has created a system of "structural corruption."

At least 17 leading politicians, many in the ruling party, were among the approximately 160 influential people who bought unlisted, bargain-priced stock shares from Recruit, an information and publishing conglomerate. The stock soared in price after public sales began.

Fourteen people have been arrested, including two former vice ministers and the former chairman of Japan's largest corporation, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, on bribery and other charges.

Takeshita's acknowledgement that he received more than 130 million yen (\$1 million) in political donations from Recruit between 1985 and 1987 shocked many Japanese, who feel they're still struggling to pay high prices despite Japan's increased international wealth.

As Takeshita's popularity fell

this month to 3.9 per cent, support for the LDP dropped to a low of 24.1 per cent, according to a survey by Kyodo news service.

But some ruling party members, including Masayoshi Takemura, leader of a reform group in the party, have said they're not sure the LDP will be able to end its dependence on large sums of money from the business world to maintain political dominance.

"Sometimes I think we may have to dissolve the party, and start again from zero," he said last week.

Takako Doi, head of the Japan Socialist Party, told fellow opposition leaders at a strategy session earlier this month the scandal presents a rare opportunity to wrest power from the LDP.

"This is a time of unprecedented importance," she said. The government must hold an election this summer for half of parliament's upper house, where the LDP currently holds 143 of the 252 seats. Although the ruling party has suffered a series of setbacks in recent local elections in traditional strongholds, few people believe it will lose its parliamentary majority.

William Gleysteen, president of the Japan Society in New York, added: "The progress Japan has

Political turmoil may undermine Japan's world economic role

By Alan Wheatley
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Japan's emerging leadership in global economic affairs may falter as its politicians turn inward to heal wounds caused by Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's resignation, U.S. political analysts said.

In the period while the ruling Liberal Democratic Party re-groups to fight elections in both houses of parliament, foreign initiatives are likely to take a back seat to domestic preoccupations, the analysts said.

Takeshita said on Tuesday he would resign over the country's bribery and influence-peddling. Recruit scandal, but he indicated he would remain in his post for another month or so until parliament passed a national budget.

"You're going to have a series of weak leaders who aren't going to be able to confront the important international issues," Gerald Curtis, director of the East Asian Institute at Columbia University in New York, told Reuters.

Japan has been inching towards an economic policy-making role more commensurate with its status as a financial superpower.

It has expanded its foreign aid budget, wants more say in the International Monetary Fund and last year put forward bold ideas for tackling Third World debt that recently found their way into the Bush administration's new debt strategy.

These issues have developed a momentum of their own, but Japan's skilled bureaucrats will eventually be hampered in the absence of firm political leadership, analysts said.

"They can move only so far before they need a political stamp of approval," Randall Henning of the Institute for International Economics, a Washington think tank, said.

William Gleysteen, president of the Japan Society in New York, added: "The progress Japan has

made in the past couple of years in working out a niche in the international community is going to slow down. I don't think you'll see a reversal, but it'll be stalled."

None of the experts interviewed expected Takeshita's resignation to have a fundamental impact on U.S.-Japanese relations in either the political or economic spheres.

"It won't change at all how we pursue friendly trade ties with the U.S.," Yoshio Okawara, former Japanese ambassador to the United States, said.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said talks were continuing on the controversial deal for joint U.S.-Japanese production of the New FSX warplane.

"Our relationship with the government of Japan remains unchanged. Japan is a close ally," Tutwiler told reporters.

But at the very least the upheaval could have a bearing on the decision Washington must make soon whether to put Tokyo on a list of alleged unfair trading partners.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Under the 1988 trade act, the U.S. trade representative must target by May 30 specific "priority" nations that have numerous and pervasive barriers to foreign trade.

Those on the list will be under intense pressure to agree within 18 months to lower barriers and buy American goods.

If no market-opening agreements are reached, the targeted nations will face sanctions, such as 100 per cent tariffs, to match the value of trade allegedly lost by American companies.

Many trade experts expect Japan, which ran a \$55 billion surplus with the United States last year, to be on the list regardless of the political turmoil.

"In my view, the U.S. position on what it does ... should not be governed by what government changes there are elsewhere in the world," said Mike Smith, a former U.S. trade negotiator.

Alan Romberg of the council on foreign relations in New York, agreed the United States should not abandon legitimate concerns but said it should be aware of the risk of a backlash in Japan if it puts too much pressure on an already weakened government.

"It's going to be a very delicate period," Romberg, a former State Department official, said.

Gleysteen of the Japan Society said many Japanese — even before the leadership crisis — would have viewed a charge of unfair trading as a "belonged action" by the United States.

Now that there is a partial power vacuum, people will be more inclined than ever to say Washington is being obtuse and does not know its friends if it insists on filing trade charges, Gleysteen added.

The Europe European Communists want

By Julio Anguita

The writer is general secretary of the Communist Party of Spain

EUROPE — The concept, the project — is being discussed by people belonging to very different political forces, both national and continental, and the debate transcends even bloc barriers. It would appear that the construction of Europe has unified the aspirations of an extremely wide social and political spectrum, has erased the differences in aspiration for the future of the various national societies and relegated to second place social-political confrontations.

The facts, however, are not what they appear to be.

From the moment the left, other forces of progress and social movements — foremost the pacifist — have taken a major step forward, in recent times, in raising their consciousness of the European question and, consequently, of the need for a political, economic and social construction of Europe to be better prepared for the implementation of suitable policies, capable of dealing with the crucial problems of the workers and other classes of the people, from that moment, we believe, the project for Europe has become the focus also of political and social antagonisms.

With a few decades of delay, increasingly broad sectors of the left have accepted the imperative of winning the leadership of the process of European unification and construction, to the exclusion of conservative forces and the big capital of transnational empires.

What is more, the conviction grows from day to day in the left of the need for a European dimension for social transformations without abandoning the struggle for social change within national arenas so as to place the social and political confrontation on the same terrain as the conservative blocs have chosen for the centre of their present hegemony in these relations.

This is the line of thought of Spanish Communists, the Communist Party of Spain. We are not, of course, giving our support to any of the abstract projects for Europe. Without denying positive elements to the European Community by virtue of the integration process actually underway, our commitment to the concept of community and to the building of European unity is

based on analyses which reveal to us the limited character and short-comings of the present process and on the definition of certain clear goals for the Europe we want and for which we Communists are actively working.

In the first place, our definition of the European concept is tied to the construction of Socialism in Spain and in Europe. For the CPS, therefore, the democratic march towards an equally democratic Socialism will progress decisively on the European scene, taking part in the construction of that scene, at the same time as we are engaged for the success of programmes for social change in Spain.

In the second place, we support a course for the unification process which is not turned exclusively to the creation of a region of free trade to the benefit alone of the owners of the means of production. The CPS proposes

the creation of an economically and socially integrated region which means, among other things, taking a major, qualitative step forward with regard to workers' rights — with special concern for the situation of migrant workers — and with regard to the democratisation of productive relations, with the objective of efforts aimed at achieving a European society of full employment.

In the third place, the CPS is firmly committed to the radical reform of the present institutions of the European Community. As a part of this, our proposal has been that a constituent period be opened to coincide with the next legislative term of the community and to lead fundamentally to the establishment of a political region of advanced democracy. The constituent authority would be principally vested in the European Parliament.

Finally, we offer a detailed programme for the foreign policy of and efforts aimed at achieving an image of Europe as a factor of solidarity, peace, progress and freedom and on the premise of the eventual but certain definition of an authentically European, security policy.

We present our project for Europe with the wish to compare it with those of other forces and movements of the left and of progress and with the deep conviction that victory in the debate for a democratic and socially advanced Europe depends on the European left and other forces of progress and social movements joining forces in a common programme and joint action of European scope.

In keeping with this analysis, the CPS pledges its efforts to the pursuit also of its strategy for transformation on the European scene, starting immediately with

in the framework of the European Community since the community remains historically a real, albeit partial and insufficient, process of integration.

As may be logically expected from the preceding, we have for over a decade not only actively considered Europe and the EC as an arena for social and political struggle and a political framework for the implementation of our strategy of a democratic road to Socialism but also as a region deserving the efforts of workers and forces of progress for its construction.

Accordingly, the CPS together with the majority of the European left, is guided by its conviction of the fundamental value of democracy conceived not as a set of impermanent institutions but as the indispensable condition for the realisation of the Socialist project in Europe and for its advancement and preservation.

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Rudolf's corpse laid out in state after Mayerling. The head wound was naturally covered, but the fact that gloves had been put on, and that later the hands were hidden under the shroud contrary to prevailing etiquette, led to wild rumours that have

persisted to the present day. These speculated that Rudolf had been shot by murderers who had broken into the house, and that the shots had wounded his hands that he had tried to hold before his face for protection...

Remembering a prince

The following is the second of a two part article dealing with the life and times of Crown Prince Rudolf — the heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Rudolf was an enthusiastic and fluent writer, and attracted widespread interest as a travel author. One particularly popular work of his was the two-volume "Ao Orient Journey", in which he described his wanderings through Egypt and Palestine. "The golden, colourful, sun-drenched Orient". On the side, he was an active journalist: he had anonymous articles published in newspapers in Vienna and Budapest, in which he propagated his views and attacked the conservative-clerical-feudal government. He was proud of the fact that, if he had not been Crown Prince, he could easily have earned his living as a writer. His efforts to promote science and research were rewarded with an honorary doctorate from the University of Vienna in 1884.

He took his military duties seriously at first, but when he had to recognise that the Emperor did not want to listen to his views, he gradually became resigned, careless and undisciplined. Nevertheless, to the last he undertook the exhausting visits of inspection to troop units in every corner of the Monarchy, and succeeded in completely ruining his already fragile health, which now deteriorated rapidly. Never robust, he weakened his body with an excess of women, alcohol — the champagne-cognac mixture were constantly at his elbow — and morphia, which he had been taking since 1886 to ease the pain of his "strictly unofficial" gonorrhea, which at that time could not be healed with any of the available medicines. Rudolf had infected his wife Stephanie with it, which was the cause of her sterility.

Rudolf was an eminently gifted and educated politician, and often demonstrated a global perspective in his outlook. His father, however, found no employment for his son's political talents and ambitions, and dismissed the memorandums he submitted with the remark: "Rudolf is babbling again." The result was that Rudolf had to observe political events as a silent onlooker; and what the ship of state that he was supposed to command one day drift towards the rocks, helpless to do anything to correct the course other than publish his anonymous articles attacking the government. From his earliest youth he had seen liberalism as a unifying force within the Monarchy. "A union of liberals (in Austria and Hungary) should stand guard against nationalistic separatist tendencies."

One means to this end was the army. "In the midst of this chaos, it is the only link which still represents the imperial idea; it is Greater Austria. It has to be protected, cultivated, won over — that has to be the aim of the liberals. The officer corps here (in Prague) is almost exclusively middle-class, liberal, imperial-minded, and enthusiastic about the idea of a powerful state."

Enemies of the Monarchy included not only feudalists and nationalists, in Rudolf's view, but also the clerical party. He himself was not particularly religious, and one can readily accept that he was a member of a freemason lodge in Hungary. This is supported by a prayer which he wrote: "Arise O Spirit... Let the Power which created, guides and sustains be recognised through reason and

independent thinking... Master of the universe, Olympic Zeus of the Greeks, Isis of the Egyptians, Brahma of the Indians, Sun God of the Persians, mighty Allah of Islam, reconciliatory God of Love Jesus..."

Rudolf's demonstrations in favour of liberalism and democracy, ethnic and religious minorities made him many enemies. Rudolf conducted a lively verbal and written dialogue with Clemenceau, the most important French statesman of his day. He wanted to prepare a realignment of the existing alliance structure together with Clemenceau, and link Austria to France and Russia, for he was convinced that the Monarchy was going to go to the wall at the side of Germany.

Rudolf was tolerant and unprejudiced. He could communicate on terms of friendship with ordinary citizens, emperors and kings alike — something which provided no small shock for the high aristocracy of Vienna. In his last years he enjoyed going to a Heuriger tavern, and wrote songs there for his regular mistress, Mizzi Caspar, the "grande cocotte de Vienne" who was so hated by Stephanie.

The similarity between Rudolf and his uncle, King Ludwig II of Bavaria, cannot be overlooked. Both had acute powers of perception and intellect, a winning attractiveness of approach combined with dissimulation, aversion towards members of their own families, paranoid fears of conspiracies and assassination, emotional decadence, early disintegration of the will to live, pessimism and depression, readiness to die, and finally death under singular circumstances.

On January 30, 1889, it came to a double suicide with Baroness Vetsera in the bedroom of Rudolf's palatial hunting lodge at Mayerling. Rudolf apparently first shot Mary Vetsera, and then himself.

If one asks what drove Rudolf to suicide, the correct answer is probably that it was not one single motive, but a whole complex of factors which finally broke the will to live of the by now bodily and mentally ill Rudolf. The burning ambitions of his youth were nowhere near being realised, and he had been filled with doubts, not only regarding his personal fate, but also in respect of his role in the state. He must have had the feeling that nothing had gone right for him, either in private or in public life.

Since 1886 he had been afflicted by a malignant and at that time incurable disease; since 1888 he had unquestionably been mentally ill; his mistress was pregnant; he was overtaken by his unwelcome military duties — German Kaiser Wilhelm II had demanded from his father that Rudolf should be replaced by a competent military expert in his function as Inspector of the Infantry. In his letter of farewell to his sister he wrote: "When papa closes his eyes for the last time, it will become uncomfortable in Austria. I... advise you all to emigrate then." That means that he did not give the Monarchy much chance of survival. His anxious memoranda and warnings on this subject had all been rejected by his imperial father.

The drive to commit suicide had been present with Rudolf for a long time previously. Thus, in November 1888, he had planned a double suicide, not with Baroness Vetsera, but with his mistress Mizzi Caspar — who, however, had evidently not been suicidally-minded.

The young aristocrat Mary Vetsera was just 17 years old, and was of limited intelligence and education even by the standards of her social milieu — which is no compliment. The affair had probably not been of long duration, and she may have been 4 or 5 months pregnant. Even that was no reason for despair among the high aristocracy: a lengthy period of "foreign residence" and arrangements for the child could always be swiftly organised, and represented no problem, financially or otherwise.

Rudolf's manic-depressive nature manifested itself in periods of boisterousness alternating with depressive melancholy, and it seems to have been during one of the latter phases that the suicide decision was taken. The highly-born girl seems to have strengthened Rudolf's resolve in this respect, for there is no sign that she was in any way anxious about it. In her letter of farewell to her mother she wrote: "We are both very curious to see how it looks in the other world." On the evening before the suicide, Rudolf had had a hefty argument with his father, possibly about his affair with Vetsera, but it could also have concerned Rudolf's planned divorce, his newspaper attacks on his father's policies, his free masonry activities, or his deepening hostility to German Kaiser Wilhelm II. There was no lack of grounds for dispute. On the other hand, rumours of a plot by Rudolf against his father have no basis that can be taken seriously.

The "double suicide" is not proven beyond all doubt, in the respect that there were no witnesses. The weight of evidence is nevertheless overwhelming, with the best proof lying in the letters of farewell. Rudolf wrote no fewer than six of these, while Mary wrote to her mother, her family, and Prince Miguel Braganza, who had been courting her. Rudolf also signed the latter.

The numerous versions of the story of a murder can be assigned to the category of legend. These mostly named the likely culprits as the Vetsera family, or even several foresters on the Mayerling estate whose wives were supposed to have been seduced by Rudolf. Other accused assassins were members of the Catholic clerical party, and even German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, who supposedly wanted the leading opponent of the German-Austrian alliance out of the way. Among the aristocrats named was even Count Teleki, one of Rudolf's best friends and hunting companions — and, incidentally, also a freemason — although at that time he had been in East Africa, where he discovered Lake Rudolf in what is now Kenya, and by naming it thus gave his friend a memorial. The more solid stone memorial that Rudolf's mother, Empress Elisabeth, had erected for her son on the island of Corfu was rather less lasting; its remains are now in



Baroness Mary Vetsera as a 13-year-old. Four years later, she went voluntarily to death along with her lover Crown Prince Rudolf.



In public they were friends, but privately there was deep animosity between them: Prince Wilhelm of Prussia (from 1888 Kaiser Wilhelm II) and the Austrian Crown Prince.

private ownership in Laxenburg. The written wish of the pair to be buried together in the nearby Heiligenkreuz Monastery was not carried out. Mary Vetsera was buried there, alone. Rudolf was interred along with his imperial Habsburg ancestors in the Church of the Capuchin Friars in Vienna. More than 100,000 Viennese waited for 12 hours in icy January weather to pay their last respects to their former favourite. All the reports indicate that Rudolf's death caused an overwhelming sense of mourning among the ordinary people, while

the aristocracy managed to restrain themselves in that respect. It was possible to have a church burial for the suicide, on the ground that the act had been carried out in a state of "mental confusion". However, at the Requiem Mass in Rome on February 5, 1889, the College of Cardinals under Cardinal Rampolla ostentatiously absented themselves — which was perhaps part of the reason why Emperor Franz Josef had the ancient imperial veto used against the election of Rampolla as Pope at the conclave of 1903.

In Mexico land means everything

In the Mexican countryside, where land means everything, there is constant tension over land rights and land reform. The law works too slowly for some, too quickly or unfairly for others. Disputes and land seizures frequently culminate in violence, but few incidents earn more than a few paragraphs even in local newspapers. Here is the history of one conflict.

By Chris Angelo
The Associated Press

BOCHIL, Mexico — To peasants who live in the folds of Mexico's southern mountains, Sebastian Perez Nunez was a hero, the leader of their struggle to gain a piece of land.

To Roberto Zenteno Rojas, who struggled to build prosperous ranches in Bochil County, Perez was a bandit.

As the sun dropped low four days after last Christmas, their long battle came to a head.

Authorities say Zenteno spotted Perez in his aging maroon pickup on the other side of the pump at the only gas station in town, got out of his own vehicle and fired at least 13 bullets into Perez at close range.

Investigators said someone in the maroon pickup fired back but missed. Paraffin tests indicated Perez fired a weapon, although none was found.

Perez died. Zenteno, now wanted for homicide, went into hiding.

"The struggle that flooded from one and the sick rage of the other are accumulated expressions of the failure to find a solution to the problems," said Chiapas State Gov. Patrocinio Gonzalez Garrido, who knew both men.

In the remote reaches of southern Mexico, the problems have to do with land reform and justice. Like the roads that curl around the mountains in hairpin curves, they take circuitous routes, sometimes leading nowhere.

Zenteno, 49, and Perez, 38, were both born on farms in Bochil — Zenteno on land his grandfather owned; Sebastian, as everyone called him, on Llano Grande, where his father worked for one of the region's biggest ranchers.

Perez grew up speaking Tzotzil, an Indian language. After he finished sixth grade in Bochil, a two-hour walk from home, he was tapped as a bilingual teacher. The land reform acts that emerged from Mexico's 1910-20 revolution became the foundation of his struggle to help his fellow campesinos.

Those laws, tied in a tangle of bureaucracy, outlawed large holdings such as Llano Grande. Campesinos can petition the government to give them illegally held land. If the petition is granted, the campesinos receive a land grant called an Ejido, which

they can use and pass on to their children, but not sell or rent.

"He started to see all the applications for Ejidos that were 20, 30, 40 years old," said Perez's wife, Manuela, 34.

"He began to see that the government said there was no more land, because land doesn't stretch like chiclets (chewing gum), but he saw that there was still land in the hands of caciques (rural bosses). They passed themselves off as small property owners, but they had a great deal of land."

To campesinos, Zenteno was a cacique, a man whose land, wealth and political clout made him a boss. He had been running the family farm since he dropped out of school in the sixth grade after his father became ill.

He worked hard raising cattle and sold smaller farms to buy bigger, better ones, like Santo Domingo, putting some of them in his children's names. He had houses in Santo Domingo, Bochil, where he served a term as mayor, and the state capital, Tuxtla Gutierrez.

Perez started working to win land for campesinos in 1980. Under his leadership, thousands of acres of Ranchland — around 35 tracts of from 250 to 750 acres each — were turned into Ejidos.

Last summer, he ran unsuccessfully for the state senate after finishing a three-year term in the state legislature.

He spent his last year on an Ejido called Las Granjas, where he, Manuela and their three daughters lived in the rundown two-storey main house, its stately columned porch, dry swimming pool and long drive lined with rustling royal palms, vestiges of more opulent days.

The battle between Perez and Zenteno began in 1986, when campesino, and two other family tracts totaling about 1,000 acres.

Gonzalez Garrido said the holdings were within legal limits, which vary in part according to land use and water availability. But the campesinos argue the land can be taken and staged what they call a "recovery," where they put up shacks and plant crops while awaiting a decision. Ranchers like Zenteno call them invasions.

"They looted, they stole what they found and left. We had to be ready for this every week or two," said the eldest of Zenteno's five children, also named Roberto. Two years ago, the family



Bucking the system: Djarot, with raised hand, and Hakkin, at far right

A film about an Indonesian heroine gets invited to Cannes

A noble woman receives recognition at last

BEFORE the movie was released, Indonesian critics predicted that Eros Djarot's Tjoet Nya' Dhien would be a flop. How could a feature based on the story of a north Sumatran woman who fought Dutch colonialists in the late 19th century compete with The Masterless Bed and other such heavy-breathing, fast-action flicks so favoured by local audiences?

Writer-director-producer Djarot, 38, showed how. Critics are calling Tjoet Nya' Dhien the best Indonesian movie of the decade; some say it is the finest ever. Tjoet has been booked for next month's Cannes Film Festival, the first Indonesian movie to win that honour, and will be screened at international festivals in Montreal, Mannheim and Washington later in the year.

The movie traces the life of Tjoet Nya' Dhien, a noblewoman who for six years commanded an army of rebels fighting the Dutch colonial rulers. In the end, she went blind, was captured and exiled to West Java, where she died two years later. Says Djarot:

"The Dutch defeated her physically, but morally she won."

While most Indonesian movies are filmed in studios on budgets of about \$150,000, Djarot insisted on shooting at locations where Tjoet Nya' Dhien fought and using only authentic costumes and weapons. To raise the \$850,000 he needed, he sold his house and borrowed from family and friends. Christine Hakkin, the veteran actress who stars in the title role, took no salary. Throughout, Djarot fought off movie distributors who, he says, demanded "more melodrama, more fighting." Djarot was determined to produce a serious work that would impress Indonesians with their heritage. "I was worried about the elimination of our identity," says he.

His efforts have been amply rewarded. The film has already recovered more than half its costs and last November more was honoured with eight Citra awards, Indonesia's Oscar equivalent. Among them: Best Picture and Best Director. — By Lisa Beyer, Time Magazine.

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World Bank president encourages sweeping reforms in Third World

LONDON (R) — The World Bank is ready to help cut the Third World's debt if developing countries carry out economic reforms and commercial banks provide significant relief, bank president Barber Conable said Thursday.

In a speech to Reuters annual luncheon in London, Conable said swift, concerted action to lighten the debt load was needed because expectations were running very high.

"They can be met only if all parties in the debt crisis — from governments, to private creditors and private investors, to the international financial institutions such as the World Bank — move with dispatch to do their part," Conable said.

Conable said a country must carry out sweeping economic reforms to be eligible for debt reduction. "We will only help those willing to help themselves," he said.

Return of flight capital

Conable stressed the need for a return of flight capital and said the need for a structural reform was as urgent as ever.

Internal deficiencies

"It was not external debt that produced massive subsidies, reduced incentives to export, drained national budgets, undermined free enterprise, and created inefficient public sectors,"

he said. "External debt cannot be made the scapegoat for internal deficiencies."

Incentives for banks

For their part, industrial nations must act to encourage full commercial bank participation in the financing of trade, investment and debt reduction programmes, Conable said.

"Changes in regulatory practices are needed to provide incentives for such participation. This action must proceed without delay," he emphasised.

Conable appeared to differ on this issue from the Bush administration. Whereas U.S. treasury officials are reviewing tax, accounting and bank regulations to see whether they hinder debt reduction, they do not favour rule changes that would actively encourage it.

World Bank officials studying the mechanics of how to cut debt say they are increasingly concerned that reluctance on the part of some banks to waive restrictive clauses in loan agreements will hinder debt reduction on a broad scale.

Conable called on banks to set

aside these constraints, saying it would be in their "enlightened self-interest" to help countries breakout of the debt trap and get back on the road to economic growth.

If banks do not cooperate, he warned, they can hardly expect international financial institutions to take on more of the burden of risk.

"The banks should understand... that direct World Bank support and intervention would be justified only if the reduction in debt or in debt service enhances significantly the financial prospects of the indebted country," Conable said.

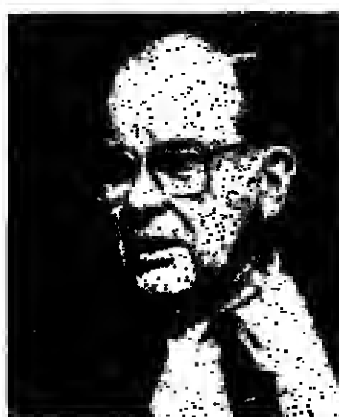
"Realistically, every dollar that we deploy for debt reduction must provide leverage for several dollars of real relief for the debtors," he added.

Flexibility

Debt reduction also needed to be flexible and sufficiently voluntary and market-related to ensure that long-term investment was not shut off, the World Bank president said.

"To reduce debt but stifle development would be to win a battle but lose the war," Conable added.

He also touched on worries that financing debt reduction might mean less money was available for traditional World Bank lending, and that standing behind



Barber Conable

bank loans to the Third World could jeopardise the bank's top-flight credit rating.

The way debt reduction is implemented and the extent of the bank's involvement "must not affect in the slightest our ability to continue our global role as a multinational development institution," Conable said.

Egypt to raise interest rates

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, under pressure from Western creditors to undertake economic reforms, plans to raise domestic interest rates May 1, Egyptian newspapers reported Friday.

Such a move would at least partly appease a demand by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for higher interest rates to attract Egyptian savings now held abroad.

Prime Minister Atef Sedki was quoted as saying that Egypt's central bank would announce the hike Monday. It would take effect immediately, the newspapers said.

Sedki did not specify the amount of the increase, but Al-Ahram reported it would be between two and four per cent on deposits and one to two per cent on loans. The maximum interest rate on deposits is now about 13 per cent.

Egypt and the IMF are engaged to draw-out negotiations over a reform package that would allow Egypt stand-by credits and fresh rescheduling with Western creditors.

The IMF has urged Egypt to raise interest rates to as much as 25 per cent, a move the government said would fuel inflation and cut investment.

Egypt, which is having severe problems keeping up payments on its \$43 billion foreign debt, wants to reschedule about \$4 billion due from last July 1 to next June 30.

A Western diplomat said the interest rate rise had been rumoured for a long time.

"The government is certainly thinking more clearly about the constituents of a complete economic package," he said, adding that interest rates were a central

issue in talks with the IMF.

Repatriating Al Rayan funds from European banks

Meanwhile, one of the most controversial Islamic investment tycoons in Egypt has given the government authorisation to withdraw his deposits from foreign banks.

The weekly Al-Mussawwar said Egypt had approached several governments seeking help to release funds deposited abroad by Ahmad Tawfik Abdul Fattah, former owner of the Al Rayan group of Islamic companies.

The Swiss government had asked for written authorisation to release the funds. Similar demands were made by West German and U.S. banks, Al-Mussawwar reported.

The magazine said Abdul Fattah, in police detention since Nov. 10, gave authorisation last Monday.

Egypt has been seeking the funds in order to pay back tens of thousands of depositors in the Rayan group, which was seized by the government last November.

The seizure was part of a crackdown to regulate the multi-billion dollar business of more than 100 Islamic investment companies in Egypt.

The government had asked the companies to go public and submit a complete accounting or liquidate. Abdul Fattah failed to meet the deadline.

The firms, rejecting fixed interest rates as un-Islamic, had attracted billions of dollars in deposits from hundreds of thousands of investors by offering profit shares.

They paid attractive returns of more than 20 per cent compared



Atef Sedki

with a maximum of 13 per cent given by banks. But the government feared they were running dangerous pyramid schemes whereby current accounts were paid from new deposits.

Al-Mussawwar said foreign banks had notified Egyptian Justice Minister Farouk Seif-Nasr of their approval to release the funds. The magazine did not name the banks or the amount of money involved.

Abdul Fattah is still being interrogated by prosecutors on the financial dealings of his group.

In a separate case, Abdul Fattah was sentenced last month to a total of 23 years in prison on fraud charges filed by nine Egyptians who failed to get back \$137,000 and 78,000 Egyptian pounds (\$32,600) they deposited with the group.

The state prosecutor's office declined comment on the Al-Mussawwar report and a government official said a local ban on media coverage imposed last November remained valid.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Arab countries cut foreign debt

BAHRAIN (R) — The Arab World's foreign debt fell five per cent to \$171 billion in the first half of the 1988, the Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) said. About 70 per cent of the drop was due to cuts in the debts of Algeria, Iraq and Morocco, ABC's March Quarterly said. This could be explained in part by a strong dollar relative to currencies in which the debts were denominated, it added. Algeria's total debt was cut by 11 per cent, Morocco's by eight per cent and Iraq's, excluding military debt, by 15 per cent.

Strike paralyses Italian trains

ROME (R) — A 24-hour strike by railway workers paralysed train services throughout Italy Friday and the state railway board said traffic would not return to normal until Saturday afternoon. Unions representing all sectors of rail workers said a huge number of members had joined the stoppage, called to protest against plans to cut jobs and allow private firms a limited role for the first time in the state-controlled industry. Railway officials said only a very small number of the 6,000 daily train services were running.

Brazil limits right to strike

BRASILIA (R) — Brazilian President Jose Sarney, facing one of the most disruptive strike waves of his four-year rule, has said he was introducing restrictions on the right to strike. "I am not condemning here the legitimate strike. This is a necessary, sacred right," Sarney said in a nationwide television address. "But I want to speak here... of the violence, of the occupation of factories, of the invasions of public and private property." Work stoppages have closed the nation's ports, the central bank and the motor industry. Sarney said he was also introducing tough measures to protect consumers from excessive price rises. The government decreed a wage and price freeze in January and strikes have spread through many sectors. Sarney said there had been 8,790 strikes since he came to office in March 1985. "Which country, however powerful it is, can put up with this?" he asked.

Mexico offers teachers 25% pay rise

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The government has offered a 25 per cent wage hike for public school teachers in an attempt to resolve a bitter teachers strike that has crippled Mexico's public school system. "We are going to begin a new chapter in the educational life of the country," Education Secretary Manuel Bartlett Diaz said. "We are going to modernise education and begin to support in difficult circumstances, in an economic crisis, the teachers." The increase would be effective May 15. Teachers have demanded a 100 per cent wage increase as they currently receive about \$142.50 in take-home pay a month. The teachers have rejected a previous government offer to increase pay by 10 per cent.

British trade deficit shrinks

LONDON (R) — Britain's current account deficit narrowed to £1.2 billion (\$2 billion) in March, relieving immediate pressure on the government for a politically damaging rise in interest rates. The treasury said higher non-oil exports and lower imports contributed to the improvement, which followed a February current account gap of £1.7 billion (\$2.9 billion), the third worst in Britain's history.

United orders 370 Boeings worth \$15.7b

CHICAGO (R) — United Airlines has announced the largest order in U.S. aviation history, ordering up to 370 aircraft from Boeing Co. for \$15.74 billion. The order comes close to matching the size of United's current fleet of 412 aircraft if all the options are exercised, although many of the new planes, which will start appearing in two years, will replace older ones. Engines will be supplied by Pratt and Whitney, General Electric Co. and Saecma of France. "United has made clear that our airline will grow and compete vigorously, and that we will have one of the newest, most modern fleets in aviation," said Steven Wolf, chairman of United's parent, UAL Corp. No financing terms were disclosed. The order includes 120 firm orders and 130 options on Boeing 737 aircraft.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, April 27, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	Japanese yen (for 100)	48.7	85.8
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Dutch guilder	254.2	257.4	
Pound Sterling	908.8	920.0	Swedish crown	84.3	85.3	
Deutschemark	286.4	290.4	Italian lira (for 100)	39.1	39.6	
Swiss franc	324.6	328.7	Belgian franc (for 10)	136.9	138.7	

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	April 22-26	April 15-19
Daily average	JD 345,543	JD 638,356
Total volume	JD 1,727,716	JD 3,191,778
Total shares	1,095,588	2,229,736
No. of contracts	7,755	2,035
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 1,272,955 (73.7%)	JD 1,449,603 (45.4%)
Financial	JD 391,525 (16.9%)	JD 1,178,171 (36.9%)
Service	(6.1%)	(15.9%)
Insurance	(3.3%)	(1.8%)
Share price index	123.7	125.2
No. of companies	60	61
Price movement (rise)	10	26
(decline)	37	18
(stable)	13	17

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6895/6905	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1890/1900	Canadian dollar	
	1.8780/87	Deutschemarks	
	2.1165/75	Dutch guilders	
	1.6685/95	Swiss francs	
	39.28/31	Belgian francs	
	6.3450/3500	French francs	
	1374/1375	Italian lire	
	132.75/85	Japanese yen	
	6.3725/75	Swedish crowns	
	6.8105/8200	Norwegian crowns	
	7.3050/3100	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	380.40/380.90	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australian shares, buoyed by Wall Street's surge continued to push sharply higher. The All Ordinaries index rose 19.7 points to 1,499.5.

TOKYO — The Nikkei index rose 212.52 points to close at 33,713.35, its third straight record close. The main factor was an April inflation figure lower than many feared, reducing chances Japan will have to raise its record low discount rate.

HONG KONG — Share prices rebounded across the board after Thursday's sharp fall as investors became less worried about student unrest in China. The Hang Seng index rose 38.77 points to 3,116.05.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times industrial index climbed 6.24 points to a post-crash high of 1,259.41 in moderate trading after overseas bourses rose.

BOMBAY — Prices rallied on unabated speculative buying after the government announced tax and excise concessions totalling 1.2 billion rupees. Tata Steel rallied 22.5 rupees to 1,455 and Hindustan Aluminium 12.5 to 317.5.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed steady in generally quiet trading before the long weekend. Dealers reported some strong orders for specialty shares, especially for pharmaceuticals stocks. The DAX index rose 1.33 to 1,370.90.

ZURICH — Prices closed higher across the board, led by banks which rose on news that the Swiss government plans to ease stamp duties on securities transactions. The All-Share Swiss index rose 5.8 to 1,026.4.

PARIS — Prices closed firm but below the day's highs, with many operators sidelined before the long May day weekend.

LONDON — Shares were mixed and drifting in dull afternoon trading before the long U.K. weekend, as worries that the market was overbought prompted some profit-taking. At 1440 GMT the FTSE 100 was just one point firmer at 2,116.7.

NEW YORK — Profit-takers pulled blue chips back from small early gains and the broad market was narrowly lower in mid-morning trading. The Dow was down five at 2,414.

Sudan shuns devaluation demand

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has rejected an IMF request for a massive devaluation of its currency, a government official has said.

He said Sudan had also turned down a request to cut deficit-financing borrowing from the Bank of Sudan (central bank).

The official said International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials in Khartoum for talks on economic reforms asked that the pound be devalued by 160 per cent and that the two-tier exchange system be

abolished.

The official, who spoke to Reuters on condition he not be named, is taking part in the talks which began Monday.

But Finance and Economic Planning Minister Omar Nour Al Dayem said in remarks published Wednesday that the IMF had made no such proposals during the negotiations. He added that the government had no intention of devaluing the pound.

He said the talks centred on the budget for the fiscal year 1989-90 which begins July 1.

Sudan last October introduced a two-tier exchange system, doubling the official rate of 4.50 pounds to the dollar to choke off the foreign currency black market and attract remittances of Sudanese expatriates into legal banking channels.

Police also cracked down on black marketeers but illegal trading in the dollar later rebounded and the U.S. currency now sells at about 20 pounds.

Sudan, grappling with famine, war and an estimated \$13 billion foreign debt, last held talks with the IMF in November. The fund

declared Sudan ineligible for fresh credits in 1986.

A new round of talks had been scheduled for January, but did not take place because of a political crisis that led to the break-up of the coalition in office.

The IMF, to which Sudan owes some \$1 billion in arrears, wants Khartoum to introduce politically sensitive reforms including cuts in government spending and privatisation of loss-making state enterprises.

At least six people were killed and scores injured in street protests in late 1987 when Sudan devalued its currency by more than 40 per cent as part of a package of economic reforms agreed with the IMF.

In recent months, foreign and Sudanese economists say, Sudan has borrowed heavily from the Bank of Sudan, mainly to finance a long-running civil war in the south and reconstruction in areas hit by last August's floods.

Although the government is obliged by law to repay money borrowed from the bank, the economists say this has not been done for many years.

The borrowing has pushed up inflation, whose annual rate is conservatively estimated at about 50 per cent.

Rese archers detect overheating signs in West German economy

BONN (R) — West Germany's economy, the powerhouse of Western Europe, is showing signs of overheating after six straight years of growth, an authoritative report has said.

"After a six-year upswing, tensions are beginning to show in the economy," the report, compiled twice yearly by a group of local independent research institutes, said.

West German inflation looks on course to hit three per cent this year and stay there through next year compared with 1.2 per cent in 1988.

The report, by Munich's IFO, Essen's RWI, Hamburg's HWWA, West Berlin's DIW and

the Kiel Institute, said demand and production in the economy grew strongly around the end of last year, pushing some industries to their capacity limits.

Rising inflation is a worry for West Germans who for years have been used to stable prices. Older citizens still remember the hyper-inflation of 1922-23, when the former currency, the Reichsmark, fell to one-five hundredths of its 1914 value.

Last week West Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank, surprised financial markets by announcing it was raising two key interest rates in an attack on rising inflation.

The report, written after the

move, said a further increase in interest rates was unnecessary.

"The institutes do not see the necessity for tightening the monetary reins further," the report said.

They said the Bundesbank should wait to see what effect the latest rise had on the economy.

If the Bundesbank stuck to its monetary targets then this would be the best guarantee for economic growth and price stability, it added.

At a news conference called to present the report, RWT's Brinck Rucker said West Germany's inflation rate would rise further if price rises prompted higher wage demands. "So far

there aren't any signs of that," he said.

The report noted that West Germany's unions were bound by long-term pay agreements which had given only moderate pay rises. These agreements are up for negotiation next year.

West German economic growth would be around three per cent this year after 3.4 per cent in 1988.

The institutes saw unemployment falling by 170,000 to 2.07 million this year but climbing again to about 2.1 million in 1990. The percentage of the workforce without jobs would total 8.2 per cent this year and in 1990 after 8.7 per cent in 1988.

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Bangladesh tornado toll rises to 700

DHAKA (Agencies) — Soldiers recovered more bodies from fields and from under rubble in central Bangladesh Friday, bringing to 700 the death toll from a tornado that devastated the area two days earlier.

Officials said they believed there were many corpses still hidden under wreckage.

"It seems the death toll will pass 1,000 when all the wreckage has been cleared," one official told reporters.

The tornado, with a wind speed of 160 kilometres per hour, hit the Manikganj district, 65 kilometres north of Dhaka, Wednesday.

Striking without warning, it flattened houses and crops in a 150-square-kilometre area.

"Nearly 500 bodies have so far been recovered from Shaturia sub-district alone," said District Commissioner Moslem Ali Friday.

He said 50 bodies were found in Daulatpur sub-district and

more than 150 in Manikganj Sadar, Dhamrai and Nagarpur.

More harrowing stories emerged Friday from survivors of the storm.

"I saw 30 bodies, mutilated and rotting, lying in a rice field two days after the havoc," said Abdul Ghafor, chairman of a local council.

"Villagers first noticed a patch of bright yellow cloud hovering in a corner of the sky," he told Reuters by phone.

"Then, before they could realise what it was, the tornado thundered down — blowing away men, houses, cattle and everything," he said.

The tornado destroyed thousands of houses in at least 30 villages, killed hundreds of animals and damaged crops already badly hurt by more than a month of scorching drought.

Officials said intermittent rain since the tornado was easing the drought but delaying efforts to rescue storm victims.

"Widespread rain last night and early today caused immense suffering to thousands of homeless people squatting outdoors. It also slowed the rescue operation," Manikganj resident Zahidul Haque said.

Haque said relief supplies were scarce and most survivors lacked food and clothing.

Witnesses said twisted corrugated iron roofs still hung from trees. Waiting parents searched for children while a husband madly dug through piles of debris hoping to find his wife.

Lack of medicine and shortage of hospital beds were hampering medical treatment for the victims of the tornado, doctors said.

The Relief Minister has said at least 12,000 people injured.



Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita answers questions about the Recruit scandal in parliament

Tokyo rams through budget despite boycott

TOKYO (R) — Japan's ruling party rammed the national budget through the lower house of parliament Friday in defiance of an opposition boycott that had stalled the bill for nearly two months.

Political analysts said the move would increase pressure on the embattled Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its leader, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who announced his resignation Tuesday over the country's biggest postwar political scandal.

It was the first time in Japan's parliamentary history that all the opposition parties had boycotted the key plenary session convened to vote on the budget.

The opposition has refused to take part in any budget debates to back demands for a full disclosure

of the Recruit donations-for-favours scandal, which has sent the popularity of the LDP plummeting to rock-bottom.

"We truly regret the absence of the opposition parties," said LDP Member of Parliament Tokuro Yamashita in a pre-vote speech.

"But as the only party with a sense of responsibility towards the people, we have decided to bring the (budget) bill to the vote."

While the LDP has a majority in both houses of parliament, it had been reluctant until now to use it to force the budget through for fear of causing offence in consensus-minded Japan.

Following Takeshita's resignation announcement, political analysts said the government had nothing more to lose by going

ahead unilaterally.

"We cannot accept this outrageous act," Japan Socialist Party leader Takako Doi told reporters. "It is nothing but the LDP trying to hide the truth of the Recruit scandal. They are shameless."

The anti-LDP newspaper Asahi Shimbun denounced the unilateral move as reckless and high-handed and said the party had done it simply to try to put the lid on the Recruit scandal.

"I am really angry, it's outrageous," said one middle-aged office worker interviewed on television.

"I have always voted for the LDP in the past, but because of this, I will vote for another party next time," said a woman.

Peking students savour 'victory,' plan strategy

PEKING (Agencies) — Students at Peking universities discussed strategy Friday and vowed to continue their five-day-old class boycott, as well posters appeared proclaiming victory a day after more than 150,000 students and supporters marched for democracy.

"Victory belongs to the people," said one poster at Peking University.

"Long live the student movement," said another at the Political Science and Law College.

Student leaders said they welcomed the government's announcement Thursday that it was willing to hold talks with student leaders, but opposed the condition that the talks be conducted through official student organisations.

Protesters in most schools have already rejected the official groups, as non-democratic and have formed their own student unions, which the government has denounced as illegal.

Student leaders from several

schools met Friday afternoon to discuss strategy.

"We talked about the march but didn't come to any decisions," said one leader at Peking Normal University. "Right now we are savouring this victory. We have made the Communist Party bend."

Wang Dan, a student leader at Peking University, said student leaders hoped talks with the government would be held soon.

He said students wanted to meet with Premier Li Peng.

"He is the leader of the government and he should hear all the views of the citizens," he said.

Newspapers throughout China printed a Xinhua News Agency story on the protest, saying that about 30,000 students marched in the city.

The protest was sparked by an editorial Wednesday in the People's Daily which called the student movement a "chaotic disturbance" and accused the students of being unpatriotic.

Friday's Xinhua report was significant in that it did not accuse the students of calling for the overthrow of the government.

Most students say they only want the leaders to do their job better and respect human rights.

Thursday's march was led with a poster reading, "Uphold the righteous leaders of the party."

The afternoon television news broadcast a videotape of the march but repeated a warning that the march was illegal and that student unions which had organised the march were breaking the law.

The People's Daily, the newspaper of the Communist Party, also ran a re-cap of the previous two weeks of disturbances in an attempt to calm the students' anger.

The article denied that students had been beaten in Peking last week when they engaged in a sit-in protest at the gates of the Communist Party headquarters, although an AP reporter witnessed six students being hit by police.

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Mir crew return to Earth

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Three Soviet cosmonauts have returned to earth from the Mir space station, leaving no one aboard the orbiting craft until at least August, the official news agency TASS said.

This is only the second time the space station has been left unattended since it was launched more than three years ago.

The descent module carrying Alexander Volkov, Sergei Krikalev and Valery Polyakov touched down at 6:59 a.m. Thursday (0259 GMT) in Kazakhstan in Soviet Central Asia, TASS said.

The cosmonauts, apparently suffering no ill-effects from their extended space flight, were taken by helicopter to a nearby town to meet with their families, Radio Moscow said.

Mir, launched in February 1986, has been unmanned only once before — a seven-month period from July 1986 to Febru-

ary 1987. The decision to unman the orbiter was made because two research modules were not ready for deployment and for economic reasons, officials said.

The officials said Mir will be unoccupied until August, allowing savings in the space programme at a time when the Soviet Union is wrestling with a budget deficit of up to 100 billion rubles (\$160 billion).

A replacement crew was originally due to arrive at the Mir station April 19.

Other segments of the space programme are continuing and TASS announced Thursday that a Foton rocket was launched Wednesday to study space materials.

The three cosmonauts landed in a Soyuz TM-7 capsule 150 kilometres northeast of Dzharkent in cloudy skies with observation planes and helicopters on hand, TASS reported.

Volkov and Krikalev had been in space for five months while Polyakov, who remained on board after orbiting with a Soviet-Afghan team, had been aboard Mir for eight months.

Cosmonaut Vladimir Gzhenbekov told Soviet Television "a little correction" had been made, but there were no problems with the landing.

The next crew due to take up residence in Mir in mid-August will bring with it two modules containing a space chicken farm and equipment for the production of single-crystal semiconductor materials, TASS said.

The agency said there would be "a biological complex for mastering the technology of growing poultry in zero gravity."

The new crew members, Alexander Viktorenko and Alexander Balaudin, are expected to remain on board for six months.



Neil Kinnock

Kinnock lashes 'Thatcher miracle'

LONDON (R) — Opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock launched a fierce attack on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's 10 years in office Friday as a poll predicted a Labour gain in a by-election next week.

Kinnock said a decade of Conservative government had brought "debts, divisions, dogma and poverty" to Britain.

Thatcher, Britain's longest-serving prime minister since the 1820s, will mark 10 years in power May 4, the day of the by-election in the South Wales seat of Vale of Glamorgan and local council elections throughout most of Britain.

A MORI poll in Friday's Times newspaper put Labour eight points ahead of the Conservatives, with 47 per cent of the projected vote.

The by-election was caused by the death of a Conservative member of parliament and a Labour win would be only the party's third by-election gain from the Conservatives in 25 years.

Kinnock, addressing a trade union conference at the start of week-long Labour publicity programme to coincide with the Thatcher anniversary, attacked the concept that she had wrought a "miracle" and social miracle in Britain.

"This golden week of celebration of the decade of the Thatcher miracle, I just want to get a little bit of perspective here so that people can see that so much of the miracle that is claimed is truly a mirage," he said.

Central Park assault shocks New Yorkers

NEW YORK (AP) — The vicious attack and rape of a jogger in Central Park by a gang of teen-age hoodlums has left many New Yorkers trying to make sense of a senseless crime.

The victim, a 28-year-old investment banker, remains in a coma. Eight of her alleged attackers, ages 14 to 17, are in custody. Two were indicted Wednesday, and Thursday a grand jury indicted three more teen-agers who allegedly left her for dead.

But by some accounts, the youths seemed unlikely attackers although several came from broken homes and all lived in a Harlem neighbourhood surrounded by drugs, alcohol, crime and poverty.

"I deal with kids in trouble. These were not kids in trouble," said Bernard Diamond, principal of the junior high school two of the boys attended. "They come from homes of parents who care, parents who are as shocked as we are."

Their victim was on a solitary jog in the northern end of the park the night of April 19. She was beaten unconscious with a lead pipe and rock, raped and left bound and nearly naked. She was found several hours later.

Doctors at Metropolitan hospital, where she has been in critical condition in a coma since the attack, say that although she may survive it's unlikely she will ever recover completely.

The woman apparently was one of several targets of the gang as it went "wilding" through the park that night.

The term was a new one to the

police, but not the activity. For years, loosely organised packs of marauding youths have roamed the streets and parks bullying, robbing and attacking victims at random.

"I ain't going to say it's fun. It's getting your anger out at somebody. It's like stealing fruit. It's not because you are hungry," a 15-year-old boy who said he was a friend of one of the suspects told the New York Times.

The assailants reportedly used racial epithets in one of eight assaults during the rampage and discussed "getting whitey" or "getting a white jogger." The victim is white and the accused attackers are black.

However, law enforcement experts say victims of the so-called "wolf packs" are more often black than white, and the lawyer for one of the youths denied the boy suggested the gang go after a white victim.

The suspects are being held on charges of attempted murder, rape and assault and could face other charges.

Lisa Whitten of the National Board of the Association of Black Psychologists said the violence of city life allowed the boys to bury normal emotions in the frenzy of their attack.

"They're human beings who went berserk," she said. "They had fantasies in their minds — of being like those on television, the ones who shoot people, who are powerful, in control, macho, aggressive, strong."

Police said only one of the suspects — 17-year-old Michael Briscoe — had a police record.

No snap polls in Ireland

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey has ruled out calling a snap election after his minority government was defeated in parliament for the sixth time in two years.

Its latest defeat came Wednesday when it failed by three votes to stop an opposition motion to set up a 400,000 punt (\$600,000) trust fund for haemophiliacs exposed to AIDS through contaminated blood supplies.

After spending Thursday consulting with cabinet colleagues, Haughey told reporters: "As of now there is certainly no decision on my part to secure a dissolution of the Dail (parliament) but it is something I will have to keep very, very closely under review."

Haughey, whose popularity rating in opinion polls is at an all-time high, has spearheaded a two-year programme of draconian spending cuts to trim Ireland's 25 billion punt (\$38 billion) national debt.

Haughey, whose get-tough approach to the economy has won him hefty opinion poll backing, returned to Dublin from an official visit to Japan just hours before the crucial vote.

A government spokesman said Haughey was now considering



Charles Haughey

"the exact implications of the vote and its effect on the government's responsibility for the public finances and the control of public expenditure."

But Haughey, dubbed "the great survivor" for his many spectacular political comebacks, may be tempted to wait until after the European Parliamentary elections in June.

These could give a valuable pointer to the electoral strength of his Fianna Fail party and test the accuracy of his record-high popularity ratings.

Ireland's opposition parties show no signs of being able to form a viable coalition alternative to Fianna Fail. Fine Gael, its main opponent in parliament, has backed Haughey's approach to the debt-laden economy.

Spiked babyfood seen as extortion scheme

LONDON (AP) — A senior executive of the U.S. food company Heinz flew to London Thursday after glass razor blades and other items were found in baby food marketed by his and other companies in Britain and Ireland in an apparent extortion scheme.

As the number of reported cases rose to about 220, according to Scotland Yard, Ted Smyth, director of corporate affairs at Heinz' headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, told reporters at London's Heathrow airport:

"We are very angry in the Heinz Corporation about this terrorist attack on babies and we are determined to do everything that is possible to help the police catch them."

Asked about British news reports that some unnamed companies had handed over a total of £500,000 (\$850,000) to extortionists, Smyth said: "We (Heinz) are determined not to pay blackmail money to the thugs who are doing this. It would only encourage other blackmailers."

The only victims so far are a nine-month-old girl who cut her mouth on a piece of razor blade in a jar of yogurt and two mothers cut by glass hidden in baby food. Other items put in baby foods include thumbtacks and caustic soda.

The London Times Friday quoted unnamed Scotland Yard officers as saying police have been trailing a potential extortionist for seven months. But it said Scotland Yard believes the suspect is responsible for only a handful of the cases.

Another London newspaper, the independent, said several people have been arrested after allegedly making false claims in a bid to gain refunds from the companies involved.

H.J. Heinz Company Limited and Cow and Gate Limited, which together control nearly 80 per cent of Britain's baby food market, Wednesday offered a joint reward totalling £100,000 (\$169,000) for information leading to conviction of the extortionists.

Heinz said Thursday it had received an extortion demand but refused to elaborate. It said it had not paid any money. Cow and Gate, owned by Nutricia of the Netherlands, said it had not received a demand.

Police and government officials refused to comment on newspaper reports that the extortionists had been paid £500,000 (\$850,000) earlier in the year and were now demanding an additional £1 million (\$1.7 million).

Students battle police in S. Korea

SEOUL (AP) — Students chanting "Yankee go home" battled riot police with firebombs and rocks Friday after authorities banned a march to the North Korean border, and striking workers rioted in two southern cities.

Several thousand students clashed with riot police on at least five campuses in Seoul after the government banned a march to the Panmunjom border town village about 50 kilometres north of Seoul. The South Koreans had wanted to talk with students from North Korea about tactics for reuniting the divided peninsula, including a youth festival scheduled for July.

Twenty students were seized by police as they tried to reach the border.

Also Friday, South Korea refused to accept letters from North Korea inviting South Korea political and social leaders to observe an international youth festival in its capital, officials said.

Meanwhile, about 6,000 striking workers clashed with riot police in the streets of the southern industrial cities of Masan and Changwon, police said. Strikers in Changwon poured oil on some streets and set it on fire, and protesters in Masan used slingshots to pelt police with pieces of scrap metal.

It was the fifth straight day of violent street clashes in Changwon.

About 4,000 students were blocked by riot police Friday as they attempted to march out of Seoul National University. The students, armed with metal and wooden clubs, threw firebombs at the police until the troops stormed onto the campus firing tear-gas.

Black police vans armed with multiple tear-gas launchers fired hundreds of tear-gas rounds at students as fighting flared around the sprawling campus on the southern outskirts of Seoul. About 3,000 riot police surrounded the school.

Police officials said there were injuries, but had no figures.

About 700 students battled police with firebombs and rocks for two hours at Yonsei University.

Student clashes also erupted in the southern port of Pusan and radicals seized a government prosecutors' office in Taegu, according to Yonhap, the South Korean news agency.

Intimate letters stolen by royal maid

LONDON (R) — Private letters sent to Princess Anne by a royal aide were stolen from Buckingham Palace and handed to a British newspaper by a maid, the newspaper Today reported Tuesday. It said Princess Anne, Queen Elizabeth's daughter, told police she believed spite motivated the palace maid to steal the four hand-written letters written by the Queen's equestrian, Royal Navy Commander Timothy Laurence. The maid has already been interviewed by police four times in connection with the theft, according to Today. Police would not confirm the Today report.

"No one has been charged and we refuse to identify anyone unless they have been charged," a spokeswoman said.

Behind the wheel only with something under the belt

PORSGRUNN, Norway (R) — A Norwegian stopped by police for the 19th time for drunken driving told them he was unable to drive while sober. A police spokesman said the unidentified 42-year-old was stopped near the town of Porsgrunn south of Oslo Monday. The man, who did not have a driving licence, faces several months in prison and a hefty fine.

A firm, sour sausage for Thatcher

LONDON (R) — Sausage-maker Bill O'Hagan says he plans a special commemorative line to capture the flavour of Margaret Thatcher's 10th anniversary as Britain's prime minister May 4. O'Hagan, who has a shop in southeast London, told reporters: "It will be a lean, meaty and very firm sausage with a little bit of lemon peel in it to add a touch of sourness."

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	-2	28	10 50 Cloudy
ATHENS	11	52	25 77 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	24	75	20 86 Cloudy
BANGKOK	27	81	25 88 Clear
Buenos Aires	14	57	31 85 Clear
CAIRO	16	67	31 81 Clear
CHICAGO	06	43	17 68 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	06	32	08 48 Clear
FRANKFURT	00	32	08 48 Cloudy
GENEVA	03	37	10 50 Rain
HONG KONG	15	41	11 85 Clear
ISTANBUL	14	57	28 82 Cloudy
LONDON	03	37	11 50 Clear
LOS ANGELES	11	51	21 70 Clear
MADRID	04	39	16 61 Clear
MEXICO	25	77	28 100 Cloudy
MIAMI	22	71	27 80 Clear
MONTREAL	00	32	14 57 Clear
MOSCOW	07	45	20 69 Clear
NEW DELHI	22	72	32 98 Clear
NEW YORK	11	52	25 77 Rain
PARIS	15	41	11 85 Clear
ROME	13	58	18 94 Clear
TOKYO	11	52	28 91 Clear
VIENNA	03	41	08 47 Rain

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